



Attendance Record

Position	Name	Present	Regrets	Absent
President	Brianna Workman	X		
Vice President Administration	Husoni Raymond	X		
Vice President Education	Emma Walsh	X		
Vice President Student Life	Bibi Wasiimah Joomun	X		
Harrington Hall Representative	Tyler Dupuis (Proxy: Elizabeth Tuck)	X X		
Vanier Hall Representative	Megan Gibson	X		
Holy Cross House Representative	Madison King	X		
Rigby Hall Representative	Jenicca Jean		X	
Off-Campus Representative	Katrina Amos		X	
Off-Campus Representative	Sarie Durelle	X		
Social Inclusion Representative	Sarah Kohut	X		
Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative	Sara Nason	X		
Indigenous Representative	Kyanna Kingbird		X	
Member at Large Representative	Nikita Spencer	X		
Member at Large Representative	Hannah Moore	X		
International Student Representative	Diana Chavez	X		
Grad Class President	Anisha Romany			X
First Year Residence Representative	Pamela "Graci" Young	X		
Faculty of Education Representative	Stewart Corbett	X		

Staff Present: Jarrod Ryan (Chair), and Recording Secretary (Brianna Hill)

AQ Representatives: Cassidy Chisholm

Guests Present: Naomi Gullison, Ariel Ottens, Jo Dempsey, Sarah Morgan, Emma Miller, Yana Titarenko.

Call to Order and Quorum Call

Meeting was called to order by Jarrod Ryan at 6:04 pm.

Quorum was met with 10 voting members present.

1. Approval of Agenda

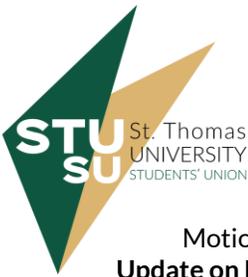
The agenda was presented to council.

Motion moved by Ariel Ottens to add an item **7.1. Open Letter to the SRC** under New Business.

Seconded by Husoni.

Motion to add item **7.1. Open Letter to the SRC** under New Business was approved by Council.

(Diana arrived at 6:05 increasing quorum to 11)



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Motion moved by Brianna to add items **7.2. NBSA Advocacy Week Overview** and **7.3. CASA Update on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Work** to New Business.

Seconded by Emma.

Motion to add items **7.2. NBSA Advocacy Week Overview** and **7.3. CASA Update on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Work** under New Business was approved by Council.

It was moved by Husoni to adopt the agenda as amended.

Seconded by Sara.

The adoption of the agenda was approved as amended.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Tyler: So, last week I mentioned the "Lover Shouldn't Hurt" Workshop in our Rez and the spokesperson is Autumn Locke. L-O-C-K-E, instead of Walke.

Motion to approve minutes as amended was moved by Husoni.

Seconded by Sara.

Minutes was approved as amended.

3. Business Arising from Minutes

There was no business arising from minutes.

4. Executive Reports

4.1. President's Report – Brianna Workman:

Hello everyone. It's been a really busy week. I met with Erickson, our Chief Returning Officer, because, as you folks have probably noticed, it is election season. I'll be working with Erickson as a supervisor for this period. So, we just chatted, made sure everyone's on the same page and filled in some gaps. Things are good, Erickson's killing it. So that's good. I, also, had a meeting with Kim Fenwick, as many of you folks know, we do meet about once a month and just generally talk about what's happening in the Administration, what's happening at the Students' Union. So, that was good. Then, I met with the President's Advisory Committee on Experiential Learning and talked about internships and things that are moving along with Experiential Learning. So, that Committee meets every two weeks. That was good.

I, also, had a meeting with Autumn, which is just our regular weekly meeting, to discuss communications and things coming up. I met with the Senate Committee on Indigenous Reconciliation that I sit on. We, also, had two students join that Committee as well, which was great. So, now Logan Pearly and Alexa Metallics sit on that Committee, which is wonderful. They've been on the Committee since before Christmas, but the last meeting we had, we were all snowed in, including me, so I was not there, and neither were they. I did my Instagram takeover this week. You've probably noticed many of us did that. That was really fun. I enjoyed that, a little bit of a day in the life. I, also, had my Help Desk office hour on Thursday. I met with Wasiimah and I sat in on Husoni's Governance Committee meeting.

Then, on the NBSA level it's been really, really busy, just in my capacity as Chair of that Organization, because this week is our Advocacy Week. So, it's been crazy leading up, just getting meetings booked, preparing for the training day to day. So, we had an executive call on Monday with myself, our Executive Director, and our Vice-Chair, Emma Miller, who is actually going to come in and chat with all you folks later. They are in Fredericton for Advocacy Week, so they're going to come and say hi. So, when I talk about Emma, you'll



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actually know who that is, which is exciting. So, we'll talk a bit more about Advocacy Week later because there's some exciting things that I want to share with you folks.

Emma and I hosted a Pre-Bootcamp meeting with the folks from the STUSU, who are attending Advocacy Week as delegates. And so, we just did a little bit of primer before the official training, day to day. I, also, was on a conference call for the New Brunswick Experiential Learning Steering Committee, which was great. So, we checked in about how Experiential Learning, implementing the new programs and funding is going across the province. We haven't had a call in a couple months, so that was good. We had an NBSA Board call Friday morning.

I met with Emily Miller, who's another one of the delegates that's coming. She was unable to attend the team meeting due to class, so I met with her one on one and went through the Advocacy Document with her. Then, I've just been working a lot with our Executive Director, Emily Blue. So, I've, also, been working closely with Emily to finalize Advocacy Document materials, training day, press releases and media stuff for this upcoming week. Then, today many of us around this table have been down at the Crowne Plaza doing our bootcamp because tomorrow we officially launch our Advocacy Week. So, we brought everyone together to do training, had some really great presentations and some really great guests provided us with some information, so that was great. That was most of my day to day and now I'm here. So, it's been a great weekend.

4.2. Vice President of Administration's Report – Husoni Raymond:

Hey everyone, thank you guys so much for coming out tonight. So, this week for me, we had our SEC meeting, which was really good. I had my office hour in JDH. Someone met with me to talk about the VP Admin Portfolio for the upcoming election. So, that was really encouraging to know that there's some interest in this position. The Finance Committee meeting was canceled this week due to availability issues. Not everyone was able to make it, so hopefully tomorrow we'll be able to meet and review all the applications that we had to review last week and, also, the applications that I've received this week. I had a Career Fair meeting with Wasiimah and Trish. The Career Fair is coming up next Tuesday. So, we're doing some final prep for the Fair, assigning some tasks and just making sure we have everything in order for the Fair on Tuesday, 10AM in the Great Hall.

I had a meeting with Hannah to discuss the possibility of having a Sustainability Rep. on the Students' Union. So, we went over the Proposal, again, and I got a deeper understanding of what she was looking for, what the expectations were for that position. I did some class visits to announce the Career Fair. Also, the Black History Month event that happened on Thursday, I visited about five classes throughout the week. We had a Governance Committee meeting where we discussed the possibility of the Sustainability Rep. being added to next year's Council and we decided to go with adding a Sustainability Committee instead and make it into a permanent Committee of the SRC. So, we're just going to go ahead and draft the Terms of Reference for that Committee and then you guys will be seeing that brought before Council within the next few weeks for approval.

There was the Black History Month event on Thursday, 'Black Voices Matter' and it was a really successful event. I really enjoyed the poetry. I'm not sure if anyone else was there. So, that went well. I'm happy that we did it. We, also, have another event coming up this month on the 28th. It's a screening of the 'Viola Desmond Documentary.' Viola Desmond is the first Black woman to be on the Canadian bank note, so that's coming up and we will have a representative from the Bank of Canada coming in to talk about the significance of the note. I wrote my BOG report, as Brianna will be presenting that on Saturday.

I, also, did an Instagram takeover, showing people what a day as VP Admin was like. I had fun with it. I don't know about anyone else, but it was really good. Then, I did a budget update, which is available on our website. However, I won't be presenting it before Council this week because of everything that's on the agenda already. It's expected to be a very long meeting. So, I will be presenting that before Council next week. But, in



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the meantime, if you guys want to see what the finances are like, of the Union, you can check that out on our website.

Emma: With regard to the Sustainability Committee, was Hannah a part of that talk, like the talk with the Governance Committee?

Husoni: Yes, she was. She was there.

Emma: Could she be that, just like to amenable option as opposed to the Rep.?

Husoni: Yes, we agreed that that was sufficient.

4.3. Vice President of Education's Report – Emma Walsh

So, on Monday, I met with Emma Miller, who's the President of Mount Allison Students' Union and who will be joining us today, to talk about sustainability and the publication that we're working with the NBSA. We want to make sure that, that gets done, but we only have a couple more months left before our Annual General Meeting. So, we had a reach in on that, which is good because we, kind of, forgot about it over the past few months, just where it's been a little bit busy. And so, we had a good phone chat about our Sustainability Publication. As Brianna mentioned, she and I met with the Advisory Committee on Experiential Learning where we talked a little bit about the different funds. Nobody had applied for any this week, so there was nothing to approve. But, we are trying to figure out ways in which more classes and courses could be developed with an Experiential Learning, like, aspect.

I've had five meetings this week with people who are interested in running for Vice President Education next year. So, those have been really fun and really productive meetings and I'm glad to see that there's so much interest in the position for next year and that's really great. And the folks who came, came super, super prepared and I'm really interested in seeing how the election goes along. As Brianna mentioned, we had the NBSA Advocacy Week primer session. Unfortunately, that was when I was getting really, really sick, so I didn't say a lot, but I did learn a lot and it was a good refresher on the policies that we're going to bring forward this week. Wasiimah and I met with both At-Large Reps., Hannah and Nikita, on Thursday morning and we talked about the Sustainability Conference that they want to start next year. It's very ambitious but it's an excellent initiative and it would basically involve inviting students from all over Canada, who are student led groups, to St Thomas sometime next winter to talk about how to better organize the student efforts around sustainability and best practices. So, I'm really going to try, the best that I can, to help them organize that. So, Wasiimah and I recommended some things and it's, also, really helpful because two years ago I was involved with planning the UN Sustainable Development Goal Conference, so I have a little bit of experience in that area.

(Nikita arrived at 6:18pm increasing quorum to 12)

I, also, had my office hour, which is excellent. Thank you, Nikita for coming to talk to me during that office hour. I always like to have a visitor. As Brianna mentioned, we had the New Brunswick Student Alliance Board call on Friday morning and then I, also, had our CASA Board call right after that. In that Board call it was decided that both myself and Yana Titarenko, are going to be heading to Quebec, at the end of the month, in order to represent CASA at the Quebec Students' Unions Caucus. So, that will be interesting and excellent because we have a great partnership with the QSU and currently in renegotiation talks. With regard to #StudentsLet'sAct, I've also just been doing some tying up efforts, if that makes sense. We are collecting data from Campuses that ran the Campaign to see what we could have done better, what could have been better organized and room for improvement, especially because we want to see what can be improved for the Get Out the Vote Federal Election aspect. So, we had a survey sent out on that and I've also just been reaching out to folks. We, also, have, in snaps to this, a meeting with the Minister of Health set up for the end of the month, so that's really excellent. It's good to see that the letters are actually going somewhere and that it got the attention of the government.



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As Brianna mentioned, we had the NBSA Bootcamp today, so that's where I've been, and it's been really fun. Thank you, folks, because several of you have been here, so I really appreciate it. As Husoni mentioned, we had the Executive Committee meeting. I, also, wrote a BOG report, which was pretty short but short and sweet, right to the point. I had a liaison call for CASA's Board with the MacEwan University in Alberta, which was really excellent. I wrote up a Senate report as we have Senate this Thursday and I think that is it. That was my week.

Sarie: Mentioning the fact that you helped organize the Sustainable Development Goals two years ago. There's an event going to be happening in Fredericton, that some people would have gotten invited to and have attended. It's called, 'The Talking Climate: How can we build Canada's climate conversation?' And, in Fredericton its March 11th from nine to four. I don't think they have an actual location in Fredericton yet. I emailed them saying that, "you know, maybe they might want to contact STU to see if they have the space for that." But, that's one thing that stemmed from that.

Emma: Is that somebody who, from that, did it or is it Steve Lee? It is Steve Lee. Thank you.

Elizabeth Tuck: The Sustainability Conference, is that Winter 2020 that she meant by that?

Emma: Yes, especially because planning a Conference, something that size would take a sizable amount of time to do, but that doesn't mean it's not possible.

4.4. Vice President of Student Life's Report – Bibi Wasiimah Joomun

So, this week has been a long week. On Monday I met with Megan Costain, the Co-Chair of Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, to figure out the Certificates for the Sexual Assault Bystander and Support Training. We've been having some difficulty with the format of the certificates. So, hopefully I should have them done very soon. But if you have anyone that asks any questions about this, just send them my way and we can figure something out. As the rest of the Executive team, I took over Instagram on Tuesday. I, also, attended the Sexual Assault Team Prevention meeting that happens every month. This time we had more folks around the table, which was very nice. There were people from UNBSU, NBCC and UNB Post Graduate Program, FSACC, the Campus Sexual Assault Advocate and someone from UNB faculty. We went over some items- Sex Week that's happening at UNB in the SUB over the next few days. So, from Monday to Friday. So, if you would like to learn more about sex or any other educational aspect, just head down, visit.

I, also, discussed and started looking into who to contact to change the name of the trail that leads STU to UNB. So, I'm really in contact with some people because there were a lot of people from UNB at that table, so I decided to just throw that out there and we've been looking into that. I, also, had my weekly Career Fair meeting. The Career Fair that's happening next Tuesday, as Husoni mentioned, from 10AM to 3PM in the Great Hall. I met with some potential candidates for VPSL in the upcoming election, Simon Wassef, Elizabeth Tuck and Sarah Kohut. So, those were very productive meetings. I had my first meeting with our new Activities Coordinator, Ailish, to discuss about some future events. We started discussing about the STUSU AGM and the Mental Wellness Week. We're trying to see how we can make the STUSU AGM more opening and welcoming to the STU general population because usually it's open to students, but very rarely they tend to attend that.

As everyone already mentioned, I, also, attended the executive meeting. I had a very quick, Emergency Bursary meeting with Tina and Brianna, very quick. Had a Vanier Renewal Working Group meeting to go over the Terms of Reference and how to approach and discuss about renewing Vanier and what things we need to consider. I, also, attended the STUSU training for NBSA Advocacy Week. The Food Advisory Committee met with visiting Directors from PEI and St. Mary's University to go over how we can improve food services on STU campus. So, that was very productive. I, also, got a free breakfast out of this.



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I, also, had my office hour at the Help Desk. During that office hour, I had a meeting with Hannah, Nikita and Emma about the Sustainability Conference. Emma already touched on that, so I'm not going to go there. I met with Brianna. I, also, had an interview with the AQ about the UNB Alcohol Policy with new pictures at the Cellar to, kind of, bring out our approach on what we think about that. I had a Food Bank Committee meeting. I don't know if any of you follow the Food Bank's Instagram page, but we are giving away a Community Food Smart Bag. So, to know how to be entered in that, just go follow the STU Bank Instagram page. Had my last Career Fair meeting on Friday, I've been meeting with Trish every week since the beginning of my term, so it's, kind of, sad not to be seeing her after the Career Fair, but just to really wrap up everything and finalize everything for Tuesday. I've, also, been working heavily on finalizing the volunteer schedule. And, lastly, I was, also, at the NBSA Bootcamp all day today.

Emma: I just want to emphasize the importance, I think, that the trail renaming effort has, especially because I know that I've had trouble in the past couple of weeks trying to express like, "I'm taking the connecting trail." People are like, "what trail are you talking about?" I'm like, "the one that connects the campuses." And I've been really trying to avoid using vulgar and offensive language, so I'm happy that that's happening.

5. Employee Updates

There were no employee updates.

6. Representative Reports

6.1. Harrington Hall (Tyler)

Hi everyone. I hope you're all having a wonderful weekend this week, so far. So, we had our House Committee meeting last week and there are plenty of things that were announced. So, on Valentine's Day our House Committee will be putting Valentine's cards on the doors to celebrate the Day of Love. Other than that, plenty of activities are being organized throughout the week, so including our first-year event 'Nachos and Pizza,' which includes plenty of board games going on, to entertain people. Other than that, later on for the month of February, another event is, 'All Tea, No Shade, which is a wing bonding event, with tea, **non-alcoholic** wine and cheese, all with board games to entertain people. Finally, we elected two new Wing Reps. last week, so our House welcomes Maze Melanson and Ryan Clark to House Committee. Also, I was at the NBSA Advocacy Week Bootcamp this morning, I had a blast with plenty of wonderful people. And, other than that, I met with Emma to inquire for the Vice-President Education position.

Emma: I would, also, like to note that on February 14th its somebody's birthday.

Tyler: That was not necessary.

6.2. Vanier Hall (Megan)

Hey everyone, I hope you are all having a great weekend. We had on Vanier Day events and they were really successful. We had a lot of people come out, which was good. We usually don't have that many people that come to our events. At the end of the week we had Vanier's Birthday Party on Friday and we did have one incident. Some from Harrington stole our internet router. But, Wasiimah and Sarah, our lovely RA's, got it back for us. The party did continue on after that, and it was really good.

Tyler: I would like to put on record that the problem was resolved.

Wasiimah: I would like to put on record that Sarah and I resolved that problem.

6.3. Holy Cross House (Madison)



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Hi everybody. Not too much this week. Holy Cross, actually, had a very busy weekend this weekend. Friday night we had a wing bonding, it was a movie night, it was called Ratastewy. The point is we were watching Ratatouille, the movie, and there's someone making stew. So, that was the night and it was successful. Last night, it was the first-year bonding event. It was bowling in Kingswood. We successfully got 15 people onto a bus down to King's Place, transferred over to Kingswood, played bowling for two hours and then got everybody taken back. Pretty impressive actually. So yeah, busy weekend, but it's going awesome.

Emma: Can I just say, all throughout this entire year you've made me regret not living in Holy Cross because your events are off the hook.

Brianna: You make me miss living in Holy Cross, every single week.

6.4. Rigby Hall (Jenicca)

No report available.

6.5. Off-Campus (Katrina and Sarie)

Sarie: Hello everyone. As you can see, Katrina wasn't able to make it today. So, I will be doing our short update. First, there's our Housing Fair that we're hosting, this Wednesday, February 13th from 10-2 in JDH Cafeteria. So far, I think we have four different landlords from town coming to the event. And then, also, we haven't confirmed yet, but the Inter-Generational Housing Group that Shannon Nelmes is a part of, she's going to try and come to try and bring that to Campus because it's super interesting. Trying to connect seniors with students, living together. So, they're, hopefully, also, going to be coming. I posted the event on the Communications group chat, so if you could all share it, that'd be great. And, when I get the online poster from Katrina, I'll, also, post that in there. You can post it on your Instagram and such.

I met, on Tuesday, with Wasiimah, with the Food Services Advisory Committee in the Cafeteria. There were representatives from other Universities. It was really enlightening and a good opportunity to talk about, you know, what services on Campus are best for Off Campus students. I was able to, kind of, get that word out there on different things that the University can, maybe, change and improve to help the Off-Campus students feel a little bit more comfortable in the cafeteria or in other spaces. I, also, attended the Governance Committee meeting, with Husoni, and I attended the Black History Month poetry reading, which was amazing. It was super awesome to see both of them present. Then, I, also, met with Husoni to get some more information about the VP Admin position.

6.6. Social Inclusion Representative (Sarah)

Hi everyone. I, unfortunately, was not able to go to the Poetry Night and I'm very, very, very sad about it. I had to work, could not get my shift covered. It's fine. Anyways, in terms of stuff from the Women's Center meeting, which I attended last Thursday, the Vagina Monologues are coming up on February 12th and the 13th from 7-9PM in Marshall D'Avray Hall, Room 143. So, I highly recommend everyone to go. It's going to be awesome. Then, hopefully, maybe, we can get someone to share it on the STUSU platform, like, the little thing that the Women's Center posted on Facebook and etc. about it. On March 14th there will be a Photo Expo. on the 2017 Guatemala Orphanage fire which killed 41 girls between ages 14 and 17, which occurred on International Women's Day. Whoever created these portraits, they're trying to bring it to the UNB/STU Campus and they had hopes of bringing it to the Women's Center, but we don't believe that there'll be enough space in the actual Center to have it. However, apparently someone from the Human Rights Department, at STU, is working with whomever is organizing this, trying to bring it here. They didn't have any names for me, unfortunately, but I'm going to be reaching out to the Department to try to figure out who was speaking with



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them and, sort of, help bring it here because I want it here. It's going to be fantastic. Apparently, the portraits are beautiful.

The Women's Center is, also, having a Trivia Night at the Cellar alongside the UNB Computer Science Association and that'll be on February 28th. Everyone should go. Husoni you should go on time, I'm kidding. Also, some people that are organizing a Conference about Women in STEM, so Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, came to the Women's Center meeting to, sort of, propose what they're going to be doing. So, that will be on March 23rd and although we have none of the things here at STU, I think it'd be fantastic to go because its really about empowering women and all that jazz.

I, also, finally had a meeting with Autumn and we were able to work out logistics for the Social Inclusion Committee. She's working on, sort of, an infographic now and, then, hopefully, I'll be able to have a few meetings before the year ends and then that'll be something that I pass on to the incoming Social Inclusion Rep. and, sort of, work with them to have that up and going, right away, next year. I met with Wasiimah to talk about the role of Vice-President Student Life. I will be meeting with Wasiimah to talk about the possibility of making the role of Social Inclusion Rep. more specific in the By-laws and, sort of, introducing stuff like that, just so it's not as vague and more structured. I attended the Vanier Renewal Committee meeting, unrelated to this position, related to my role as Harrington Hall Resident Advisor. Then, I, also, met with the same Food Representatives from UPEI and St. Mary's, also, unrelated to this role, related to my role as Harrington Hall Resident Advisor.

Emma: Women's STEM Up is a really excellent thing. We've been reached out to by the folks who were organizing it, but where we don't offer STEM fields, we just didn't see that as much, but they did definitely stress to us that it is about anyone who's really interested in innovation and that kind of stuff. So please feel free to spread the word and go, it should be a really excellent Conference.

Husoni: Just related to making the By-law amendments to the Social Inclusion position to make it more specific that's something you should, also, meet with me about.

Wasiimah: Would you mind repeating when and where the Vagina Monologues will be? I, kind, of zoned out.

Sarah: It's okay, I forgive you Bibi. It's on February 12th and the 13th from 7-9PM in Marshall D'Avray Hall, Room 143.

Nikita: For the photos, if you want to talk to Tracey Glenn. I know she's had some role in helping to organize it and bring it to our Campus. So, she should be good to reach out to.

Sarah: Thank you for giving me a name.

6.7. Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative (Sara)

Hello, I haven't seen any of you since last year. I, also, got to go to the Black Voices Matter Poetry Night, which was fantastic, and it was great. My Visual Techs class, actually, all went together. This was awesome because I was going to go anyway (don't tell Kathy Mac. that). It was phenomenal. I love El Jones and it was just all great. Everyone was fantastic. Anyway, I am here but I don't have a lot of exciting things to say this week. Basically, just what I've been doing, each week, has been happening. I still, for the remainder of this term as well, am having my office hours at the 203 Center, approximately 1:15 to 2:15 every Wednesday. Although, usually, I'm there a little earlier because of when my class starts. So, that's where you can find me each week. Also, I did want to open the floor to any questions about what I had Brianna discuss for me last week concerning my meeting with Brock Richardson. I know that, you know, I typed it up and, maybe, not all of it was clear.



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(Hannah arrived at 6:29pm increasing quorum to 13)

But, basically, just as a reminder, I met with Brock Richardson, he's, sort of, the head of Student Services in Rez Life, about the LGBTQIA+ Resource Advisor position, which had been filled by Dr. Erin Fredericks. But, is now empty because Erin is on sick leave for the year. Essentially, what we discussed in the meeting, and what Brock told me, was the reason why the position will not be filled for the remainder of the year is because it's technically not a position, it's just sort of a title they gave Erin because of all that work she, already, had been doing, which was great. She deserved that. When you're a professor, basically, one of the obligations you have to do is you have to sit on a number of Committees and such. So, basically, for Erin that title was like being on one of those Committees. So, that's why we can't just randomly assign another professor to that position. Plus, we discussed that all the professors we thought would be a good fit for that position, I had already contacted, and they weren't able to do it this year because of just, maybe, they have too big a course load or because they're too busy in general. A lot of professors who would be interested in the role are, also, part time and have tenuous positions, anyway.

But the happy news is that Brock Richardson told me that something that him and Student Services are really looking into doing, which is creating a Multi-Campus Advocate, essentially. So, like, an LGBTQIA+ Resource Advisor for UNB, STU and NBCC. So, it'd be a full-time position, that would be their only job, sort of, modeled after the Campus Sexual Assault Advocate. I think that's a really great idea because that way, you know, if it's a professor position, then there's always the possibility of someone going on leave or sabbatical and the position not being filled. But if it's a full-time person and that's just their job and that's much more secure. And Multi-Campus, the way Brock was describing it, is the person would have a couple of days assigned to each campus. So, what they're doing right now is they're looking towards three big things. One, finding funds. Two, sort of, ironing out the details. Three, which he said would be the biggest thing, would be having all the Campuses agree on all the details, which I'm sure would be the hardest thing, but he really hopes that it can be something that gets started soon. We all know Administration things usually take a long time, but I'm going to be meeting with him, again, later to, sort of, talk about more concerns about what the position would look like and he's also planning on sitting in on a meeting with Q&A. Since Q&A is back up and running this term to get Q&A's, sort of, opinions on what the position should look like.

6.8. International Student Representative (Diana)

Hi everyone, its good to see everyone here. I don't have a lot to report on, just, basically, that I went to the Poetry Night, it was really, really good, some friends cried and laughed. It was great. Also, too, just a little reminder that the Multicultural Fair is coming up on March 23 and if anyone wants to volunteer, you can do it. You can let me know and I can point you towards the STUISA Executive Board who's organizing the events. Make sure to spread the word that anyone can volunteer.

Emma: Just one thing that Megan pointed out to me is, they are looking for folks who could cook traditionally Canadian or American food, so if anyone has some time and would like to cook, that'd be awesome. I would do it, but I'm a bad cook.

Megan: They are, also, doing a raffle draw for Valentine's Day. One prize is a gift basket and the other is a giant teddy bear, so if anyone wants tickets, feel free to reach out to me or any of the other STUISA execs. or Enactus members.

6.9. Indigenous Representative

No report available.



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6.10. At-Large Representative (Nikita and Hannah)

Nikita: Hi everyone. My apologies for being late, for some reason I thought the meeting started at 6:30. I'm super excited to attend all of your guys' events this week. There's lots of cool, different things going on. So, like Emma and Wasiimah said I met with them, as well as Hanna, this week to talk about a STU Sustainability Conference next year in late February, maybe early March. So, we're super excited that they gave lots of great encouragement, which is really good. Thank you, guys, for that. And, also, along with STU Sustainability, and, hopefully, the Nashwaak Watershed, I'm looking at planning a World Water Day to clean up the Saint John River on March 20th, I believe. The Environmental Audit for the President's Environmental Advisory Committee is almost done. So, I'm super excited because we're going to make it public soon and we're starting to pass out, like, what needs to be done on our Campus. So, I'm really excited about that.

Hannah: Hello everyone. Firstly, I'd like to apologize for being late. I, also, thought the meeting started at 6:30, so that was my mistake. Nikita and I met with Emma and Wasiimah earlier this week to talk about the potential of having a Conference next year. So, that was super helpful. Hopefully, we will be meeting with Jessica Hughes to discuss funding options. Other than that, I went to the meeting with Art Zone last week to talk about the World Water Day Art Installation, which I'm really excited about. So, right now we're just working on collecting as much plastic as possible, so, I think, we're going to try and organize, through the Sustainability Club, a Plastics Drive, kind of, like a Bottle Drive just to collect as much as possible because they're trying to build a giant waterfall and then have suspended plastic sea creatures. So, yeah, we're going to need a lot of plastic but I'm really excited and I think it's going to be a super cool project so I'm looking forward to bringing that up to our Campus. Other than that, I don't have too much else to report.

6.11. Grad Class President (Anisha)

There was no report available.

6.12. Faculty of Education Representative (Stewart)

Good-evening everyone. I don't have much to report other than about our Trivia Night, last Thursday. It was a great success. We had 21 teams show up and play. I wasn't able to speak to everyone who was collecting donations for us, but we've managed to raise a couple hundred dollars towards our trip in April, so that's good news.

Emma: I apologize to you, and to Husoni, because Brianna and I had a night class. So, we couldn't go to either of these events, but I did see a bunch of people on Instagram at your Trivia, so that's really excellent. I'm very happy for you.

Stewart: You're forgiven, and I saw Husoni there after the fact.

Husoni: Better late than never, right?

6.13. First Year Representative (Graci)

Hey everyone. So, the Self Defence Seminar is officially booked. It's going to be in the gym and it will be Friday, March 1st, from 5:30 to 7:30. So, it's for first year students and it's free admission, so I'm hoping to have registration up and running this week.

Brianna: Have you reached out to Autumn for posters and promotions and stuff?

Graci: I have no yet, but I will soon.

Brianna: I just would recommend, so we can get as many students as possible.

Emma: Just out of curiosity, what was your cap? I remember you mentioned one.

Graci: 30

Husoni: Do you know if the cheque should be prepared in advance or will they accept payment after?



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Graci: I haven't heard back from him yet but I'm going to phone tomorrow and ask.

7. New Business

7.1. Open Letter to the SRC

An open letter to the SRC and Student Executives,

We are writing this letter to express our frustrations with STUSU because of its complacency and inactions. Our suggestions for STUSU come from a place of encouragement and we look forward to meaningful discussions about prioritizing activism and Indigenous rights and concerns. We ask that you listen with an open mind and heart.

Unions are important for many reasons. Originally they were created for people who were being mistreated and trapped by their employers. In order to gain rights, safe working environments, fair wages, and regulations, workers had to come together. They did this because no one would take care of them. Executive representatives need to remember that unions are not pedestals to meet politicians and work within systems. They were created by activists who were being mistreated and trapped, just like many STU students. If you think this need for radical unions is over, you have not examined your privileges.

To begin, we believe STUSU needs to address student employment concerns with UNB regarding its students volunteering at room 203. This is the queer center located at UNB and most of the students who use it are from STU. Many STU students have been volunteering there regularly for a year and have benefitted from this space. However, according to UNB administration, STU students are not eligible to work for the 203 because STU has not donated any money to the center. This can be resolved with a donation of around \$200 - \$300 or with dialogue between STUSU and UNB on the subject, though donating would relieve the 203 from copious amounts of outside fundraising.

Another initiative that would help students is to make campus more accessible for people with disabilities. Our campus infrastructure is completely inaccessible. Students who live with chronic pain or disabilities have a very difficult time accessing this school, and often have to drop out. University should be for everyone, right now STU is not. While it is not STUSU's fault that someone decided to build our university on a hill, STUSU should support an initiative to make our facilities accessible. An accessibility committee made of disabled students, profs, and staff should be created and supported. This way the union could provide funding that would make significant differences on campus. We know building ramps and accessible infrastructure costs money, but it is worth it.

STUSU should not promote Bell Let's Talk Day. It is a corporation that does not respect its employees and promoting capitalism is not activism. Promoting Bell Let's Talk Day is fake activism and it is embarrassing that STU takes part in it. We currently have two counselors that serve over a thousand students. Instead, STUSU should advocate for more counselors and hold STU accountable to hiring them along with obtaining funding to do so. As well, directly fighting tuition fees would alleviate many mental health problems students experience. While having multiple counsellors at STU would be helpful (and should happen regardless of free tuition) students would have less anxiety and stress if they did not have upwards of 40 thousand dollars of debt after graduation.

STUSU should be fighting for free tuition and in order to make this change STU needs to withdraw from CASA and the NBSA. We have been with them for 20 years and they have undermined student organizing against tuition with its complacent lobbying philosophy. Because CASA only represents their membership "in line with the mission, vision, and values of CASA" (casa-acae.com), and its philosophy is so reliant on maintaining positive government relations, CASA acts as a filter between students concerns and what is heard on the political stage. Certain members of STUSU believe leaving CASA would jeopardize the university, but there is an undeniable correlation between student union victories against rising tuition in their province, and CASA's lack of involvement with the student unions leading these victories. Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Manitoba have the three lowest average undergraduate tuition costs in Canada, at \$3374, \$3400, and \$6333 respectively (The Globe and Mail, 2018). These are also three of the



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only four provinces in Canada with absolutely no CASA presence. These provinces kept their tuition low with lobbying backed by student organizing; not positive external relations.

In such trying times for the student movement, it is time for us all to ask ourselves what the values and goals of our union should be. If Premier Ford succeeds in Ontario with his plans to dismantle the student movement, it is likely that other provinces will follow suit. The Conservative Party of Alberta has already announced their intentions to employ the same policies as Ford should they win the upcoming election. When employed in Australia, these policies of making union dues optional dissolved every student union in the country within a year. We may very well be seeing the last of the student movement in Canada. If we are, then we need to start talking about whether we want to die fighting on our feet, or begging on our knees. We need to leave CASA and start organizing.

Furthermore, "government relations" are not something to be proud of. The Canadian government is an imperialist genocidal institution. As a student union for a school with one of the highest rates of indigenous attendance in the region, our priorities should be the rights of students and Indigenous peoples: not worrying about our relationships with colonial governments. In your January 18th meeting it was recorded that several members were very proud that they travelled to Ontario to talk with Justin Trudeau about mental health resources. Your priorities become apparent when you shake hands with them. It is quite obvious that our executives would rather use their friendship with the government to monopolize their political careers instead of organizing against tuition. In order to understand these issues, we would like for our student executives to take Native studies courses (especially colonization and education, even when this class is full the prof will allow anyone to come to lectures). This should be prioritized as high as any indigenization effort made by the SRC or executive representatives.

Decolonizing STU should be one of STUSU's top priorities and we have been disappointed in their interests. When Indigenous mothers are filing human rights complaints with STU, where is your unconditional support for her? When indigenous students are listening to criminology students talk about their futures as police officers who "beat up natives", where is your condemnation? How can you remain silent in the face of issues such as these, and then wonder why we have so much trouble filling our indigenous student rep. position? What are you doing about hiring more Indigenous profs for the Native studies department? There are currently two and they are underfunded and overworked and it has been in this state for almost a decade. As well, STUSU should be pushing for Native studies to be mandatory for all students. Our school is the only one in Atlantic Canada with a native studies department large enough to offer a major, but without proper support this will soon not be the case. How many of you are willing to prioritize these needs? All STUSU members could do better and we look forward to seeing everyone prioritizing indigenous voices and concerns at STU. This criticism is not a personal attack, this is collective action that you need to examine.

We know these requests are not easy to achieve but that's the point of a union. For the most part, STUSU has been extremely complacent while working with the institution. This is not the history of unions and they should not be used in this way. We do not feel represented by our current lobbying philosophy, nor do many students at STU. If students could see themselves in your priorities, they would be more involved. So far, you have left many of us behind.

Ariel Ottens and Naomi Gullison

Brianna: So, thank you for coming and thank you for taking the time to write up your concerns and share them with us. It is something we're always appreciative of and always really receptive to, whether it's in this forum or one-on-one. I'm always willing to sit down and chat about some of these things. I will say right off the bat, I agree with some of your concerns, wholeheartedly, and there are some points I, also, disagree with. So, if you don't mind, I am going to go through. I took as many notes as I could, and it would probably be easier if I could have a copy of that letter and we can, perhaps, sit down one on one and talk through more, if this isn't sufficient. But, I'll do my best to go through and, kind of, describe, maybe, provide some additional information. Describe to you folks some of the things that are being done on some of the issues that you've raised, some of the reasons why we're with the Organizations we are and so on and so forth. And so, hopefully,



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this will be helpful and provide some additional information or maybe not. Feel free to still disagree with me. That's totally fine too.

So, the first one, the student employment concerns with the 203, I've actually never heard of that and really appreciate you bringing that up. I think one of the censuses is that STU does give or automatically \$2,000,000 of the Operating Grant that STU receives is transferred to UNB for shared services. Those shared buildings are the Students' Union Building, the Harriet Irving Library, the CC Jones Student Health Center as well as the Bookstore. And so, I think the way the University would see that is they're already contributing to the 203 because it's in the Student Union Building and they're already paying for that building to exist year after year through our Operating Grant. But if a small contribution of a couple hundred dollars could allow STU students to work and take on employment opportunities, there, again, I was unaware that that could be fixed that way. I think that'd be wonderful because I have sat down with some folks from the 203. Cat Squires is one of the UNB student's that works there, and they designed our logo for STUSU and I have a great relationship with Cat. I know Sarah, also, has a really good relationship with the folks down there, doing office hours there. So, that's something I think we could definitely talk about because I do know that, like you said, there's a ton of STU students that volunteer down there and that'd be fantastic. So, thank you for bringing that up.

The next one, about the accessibility of STU, wholeheartedly agree. Oh, my goodness. We actually have someone who I consider an expert in this topic, Emma Miller. So, the way we divide up our priorities with the NBSA is we make a list of priorities in the summer and we assign Leads and Emma is actually one of the Leads on the NBSA Accessibility priority. I'll, actually, let her at the end of this speak more if you'd like some additional information. But I will let you know that this week the NBSA is going to the Government, Stakeholders and Universities across the province and proposing that \$2,000,000 be established for universities to address accessibility issues on their Campuses. As well as, establish Multi-year Action Plans to address this because a lot of the issues we run into when we're talking about accessibility is Universities don't know how to quantify the costs. They know there's accessibility issues, but they haven't gone through, thoroughly, and done a full audit of what needs to be done to make their Campus fully accessible. So, what Emma has developed is, kind of, a two part ask of creating a Multi-year Action Plan that outlines what needs to be done on every Campus across the province. And then, also, establishing money that Universities could access in order to put that into place because infrastructure is old, and it is, of course, really expensive to upgrade. So, those are some of the steps we're taking there.

As well as, funding for more counselors. Again, wholeheartedly agree. This is something the STUSU has been talking about for years with Administration. It's something we continue to push for internally at STU, as well as Provincially and Federally. So, for example, we are talking to the University- the University is running a Capital Campaign and one of those pillars is Mental Health funding. It's something that students are contributing to and we have been told that hiring a second counselor will be part of that Capital Campaign. We look forward to seeing that happen and being involved in that process. As well as some of the efforts that have been happening Federally as well as Provincially, have been advocating for more grants for students with mental health issues as well as advocating for additional mental health Programs. So again, this week we're talking to Government to ask for online mental health supports. So, those are some other steps, as well. But, I, certainly agree, the need for counselors is pressing and it's still there. And it's not just unique to STU, it is unique across the province and across the country.

I think my biggest point of disagreement with you folks is the free tuition. There is tons and tons of research to suggest that universal free tuition benefits those from the highest income brackets at least twice as much as those from low- and middle-income families. And so, that's why CASA and the NBSA has taken the approach of advocating for Targeted Free Tuition which targets folks from low to middle income families, which is what we see, is the people who need free tuition and that it support the most. And so, that is where we've seen really great successes in New Brunswick with the establishment of programs like the Free Tuition Program and Tuition Relief for Middle Class. Those target that support to the people who need it the most,



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and again, that research does exist. It's present in Canada. It's present in other places across the country, that universal free tuition does impact those who, unfortunately, don't really need the support and that's a much broader conversation that I'm super willing to have. But I will just say that is why we've taken the approach of targeting towards the people who need it rather than universal because we do see issues with universal free tuition as going more towards those who do not need it.

Debt Relief, again, really agreeing. New Brunswick does have the highest average student debt in the country and that is a huge, huge problem. And again, we're advocating on that this week. We're proposing new Debt Relief measures and new Debt Relief Programs to the Provincial Government because it's really, really sad that New Brunswick has the highest average student debt in the country and that's something that needs to be addressed and something we have been working to address for a number of years now.

So, I guess, on the point, as well, I will say I do not agree that, the STUSU should leaves the NBSA and CASA. The NBSA is the only voice for students in the province. It is the only Provincial Organization. So, the STUSU as a really small Students' Union would have no voice to the Provincial Government without the NBSA. With CASA, you are correct, there is an alternative option for federal representation with the CFS. However, in my experience in Student Leadership, I don't think that would be a good fit for the STUSU. It would be more expensive than CASA. Also, I really doubt we would be heard as a voice within the CFS. I have spoken to other student executives who are members of the CFS and, unfortunately, the way they conduct their business internally, I don't think, is entirely fair or justified. They often shut down dissenting voices, don't allow schools who don't agree with the CFS or who want to ask questions to speak during meetings. I, unfortunately, don't think that's a good use of student dollars. If students are paying to be a part of an organization like the CFS, the executives, who were attending the Conferences, should absolutely be able to speak their mind and ask questions and, unfortunately, that's just not the way their business is conducted. And those are some of the internal concerns I have with the organization.

Policy issues, whether or not you believe Free Tuition versus Targeted Free Tuition. I think that's a policy issue and yes, there's very different opinions on that, and again, happy to talk more about that. But, what really concerns me is the internal workings of the organization and the way individuals aren't able to go and represent their students. I have heard of many, many issues of that at CFS Conferences. And I think that's one of the main reasons that I'd be highly concerned. In addition, like I said, it's more expensive. It would require the STUSU, raising our fees to join the CFS.

It's, also, really difficult to leave, and to join, or rather, not to join, but to leave. It is really, really difficult to leave the CFS. That's something else I do have an issue with if, let's say we did want to leave CASA because we were displeased with the work CASA was doing for our students, we actually could leave relatively easily. However, with the CFS it's extremely hard to leave. The process is very complicated. It's very tedious and it's often really difficult for students organizations to leave even the ones who do want to. I don't think that's an entirely good way to conduct yourself either. If student organizations want to leave and don't want their student dollars to be going there anymore, I think you be able to do so relatively easily and that's not the case we see with the CFS. And that's, again, just one of those internal issues that I see with the organization that makes me really, really fearful for a time that the STUSU would ever consider moving towards there.

So, those are some of the notes I have on that. But again, that's a really, really big conversation that I'm super willing to have. But this might not be the best place to do it. Just being mindful of everyone's time as well.

You did note some provinces that have lower tuition. One of them I will highlight is Quebec. Quebec does have very low tuition. Quebec has a strategic partnership with CASA. The Quebec Students' Union is the only Quebec organization to ever be represented Federally and it's done so through a strategic partnership with CASA. It's, actually, a very historical partnership in the student movement. As Emma mentioned it in her



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report, we're really happy to have them on-board. Quebec is, also, a really interesting jurisdiction within Post-Secondary. They do a lot of things differently. I thought I'd note that as well.

Again, all this stuff going on with Ontario, 100% agree. It's very scary. It's something that I think you're correct, could really, likely, spread. Particularly, with some Parties in Alberta and their Provincial Elections coming up. This is why we're already talking about it at all levels at the NBSA, CASA and the STUSU. We're very, very quick to respond to that letter, or rather through a National letter, through press releases. It's something we maintain contact with our partners in Ontario and work closely with them and support them in solidarity because it's very scary for a number of reasons, that voluntary Students' Union fees that you mentioned. But also, Ontario has a very similar student financial aid system to New Brunswick with the Free Tuition Program and Tuition Relief for the Middle Class. It would be really, really unfortunate to see those programs rolled back here the same way they're being rolled back in Ontario. So, there's a lot of reasons why we're very, very invested in what's going on in Ontario and ensuring it doesn't move here.

In terms of rights and speaking about Indigenous students, I would first like to recognize that our Indigenous Students Rep., Kyanna Kingbird, is not present this evening. She was unable to come. I do think there is so much work to be done on that file, both within the STUSU, at the University level. At the Provincial level, and at the Federal level. It is something that everyone is invested in, everyone is talking about. One of the priorities for the STUSU this year, it's something that I spent a good chunk of my summer working on, was ensuring that we had proper and respectful representation within our own organization for the Indigenous students Community here. So, we've had an Indigenous Rep. position for a couple of years, as you folks have noted, and one of the things that was communicated to us by Indigenous students, themselves, was that they didn't feel comfortable accessing that position because, in order to do so, you have to run in a democratic competitive election, which is not the way Indigenous Communities often choose their leaders. And so that was communicated to us and it's something that they wanted to be done internally within the Community.

So, we made some significant changes to our By-laws and Policies this summer to make it, so the Indigenous Community picks the Representative, however they see fit, whether it's through, just getting together the Community, talking circles, running their own election together, whatever it may be. We have offered to support them, in any way they see fit, but really it is up to the Indigenous students Community to get together. Then, they simply tell us who their Representative is, and that person comes to Council and represents them. And so, because this is the first year of that model, it did take a little bit of time to get the word out and advertise that position and have them get together and choose someone. But, we are really fortunate to have Kyanna now on our Council and speaking with Indigenous students about how we can make STUSU even more accessible to Indigenous students. I do think, at the end of the day, the STUSU is a non-Indigenous organization and so we really wanted to be involved in any types of initiatives to decolonize the University, decolonize our own institution.

But I would really, really like those efforts to be led by Indigenous students themselves because I do think that's the best way to go about it. And so, we were taking steps towards it and like I said, we're really fortunate to have Kyanna as a really fantastic Leader setting that up for us and working with that. I speak to Kyanna very often and I'm really happy to support her in any way I can. And I think that is the feeling throughout the entire Council as well, as this Council was the ones that formalized those changes to our By-laws and Policies at the beginning of this year.

In terms of more Indigenous professors for Native Studies, I think that's a really, really interesting point. It is something that's being talked about. Like I mentioned in my report, I sit on the Senate Committee on Indigenous Reconciliation, which is a University Committee. I am an Observing Member on that Committee because the voting members for Student Representatives are for Indigenous students. I mentioned tonight that there are two new Indigenous students on that Committee, I think, Alexa Metallic and Logan Pearly, that I think will make really, really fantastic contributions. We had a meeting this last week and they had tons and



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tons of really fantastic notes and ideas to bring forward. And I look forward to seeing some of the things that come out of that. We do talk about things like mandatory courses at Senate as well. That is something that the STUSU is very supportive of, is implementing more mandatory Indigenous curriculum and classes. So, that is something that is an ongoing process, but we hope to be as involved as we can and are really supportive of efforts like that.

And yeah, I think those are most of the notes I have. But yeah, again, thank you for bringing your concerns forward.

Emma: I would, also, like to echo my thanks to you folks for coming out tonight because I know it's not easy and, Naomi, I have had the chance to talk to you earlier this week. And, again, I'm inspired by the spark behind you folks, that you are interested in Post-Secondary issues. I totally respect where you guys are coming from, all these particular issues. Much like Brianna, there's some things I agree with, there are some things that I do disagree with. But there's also just some stuff that I want to bring to your folks' attention.

So, for instance, I completely agree that mental health is one of the most pressing issues to students. Specifically, there is a lot of research that I've looked into, specifically, with regards to, the mix between taking on student debt and having a mental health issue. There was research that was published in the summer time coming from the U.K. looking at how when you graduate you still have a mental health issue and you have a significant amount of debt. All that does is exacerbate your mental health. And so that's why we worked on a Campaign this year and it's supposed to be, kind, of an alternative to Bell Let's Talk, so you didn't have to interact with a big corporation if you didn't want to. It was called #StudentsLetsAct and we're still working on that right now. That is, actually, specifically, to allow for folks who have been diagnosed with a mental health illness or mental illness in general to be open to Non-Repayable Upfront Grants. So, that means again, like, an additional \$1,000- \$3,000 to help fund your tuition. It's certainly an issue that we take seriously.

With regard to the free tuition, I echo the same things that Brianna did. I, also, do want to note that when we go for free tuition, Universities tend to offset that cost and often times it's international students who have to take on that offset cost. We do recognize that international students are already at a disadvantage because they are suffering from the colonialism and imperialism because their education system in their own home countries aren't recognized as worthy or valuable in the job market. Only Western countries are really valuable, which is unfair to begin with. But international students are often the offset. So, for instance, at McGill, if you wanted to do like a Bachelor of Laws, it's \$40,000 as opposed to \$7,000 that you'd be paying if you were Canadian students. And so, we certainly do understand the pressing issue of tuition. Tuition is one issue that affects every single student in Canada, but we're, also, trying to find ways that doesn't affect Students' Union the most and, also, doesn't offset that on students who are already suffering from other discriminations and, unfortunately, just lots, I suppose.

With regard to CASA, I guess, I would just elaborate on the values that we use, they're, "Affordability, Accessibility, Quality and Innovation." And I certainly don't think that there is anything wrong with those values and it's something that we look beyond because when we look at how much it, actually, costs to go do your Post-Secondary, only 40% of it is, actually, your tuition. The other 60% of the costs that you incur if you're Post-Secondary or you're a student are living expenses, grocery expenses, they're counseling expenses. These other things that aren't really tuition. And that's when we look at the quality of life, as well. We, also, ensure that it's as accessible as possible.

I would, also, note that it sounds a little bit, through the characterization, that, perhaps, those organizations tell us how to function or something like that. But I really would stress that both the NBSA and CASA are Student Led Organizations. I sit on the Board of Directors at CASA, which I got elected to from the Student Leaders across the country and we are the ones who set that direction. We go through surveys from each and every single one of our member schools and we decide what issues are going to Lead with from that moment.



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Then we take all of those issues and get them back to all the Executives across the country where they are then able to state in, sort of, a ranking level which are the most important to them. And then we, finally, take that down in our Policy and Strategy Conference and decide on, probably, five to six issues that we will take to Government and our Advocacy that year.

I would, also, state that the characterization of creating friendships for furthering Political careers is not what we're about. I would never consider myself a friend with any Politician. When we go to these, the only reason we're going to take these meetings is because these are the people with the power to do what we need. **We are non-partisan.** And I stress that because we will take a meeting with anybody who will sit down to talk with us about these issues. It has proven to be quite effective for the issues that we're bringing to them and I apologize if you folks don't agree with that mode of advocacy. As I will, as well, state Advocacy is a large umbrella term, in that, it encapsulates a ton of different ways about going around pushing for change. But, I think, the focus here is that we are pushing for change.

Also, with regard to the Indigenous student issues that you raised, I think that is 100% something that we have been trying to address and Brianna, I think, has elaborated how we tried to do that internally. And again, I do recognize that Kyanna is not here tonight and it's not necessarily correct for us to be speaking without her here. But I do want to just stress that with regard to having mandatory Native Studies classes, that is something that I'm directly involved with working on at the Senate. Federally, we have, in the past, both advocated for the increase and to review the backlog on PSSSP funding. And it is something we are still trying to work on quite heavily. In fact, our Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Yana, almost all of her mandate is trying to figure out how we can better represent Indigenous students at the Federal level, including talking and consulting with students from St Thomas, here, who have a lot of ideas about how that can happen. I think that's something that needs to come from the Indigenous Communities, especially where we are a non-Indigenous organization and that is all that I have in terms of that.

But I do thank you folks are coming out and I do really appreciate it. And that does come from the bottom of heart.

Naomi Gullison: I'll try to keep this super brief, just in the interest of not wasting everyone's time. So, on the point of free tuition benefiting wealthier students, in my experience, this research often neglects that making tuition free, in Canada, would require taxing the rich more heavily. So, I would disagree with that. On the point that you raised to me when we last talked, Emma, about how it would, also, increase academic barriers for disadvantaged students to get into university. That really doesn't land with me mainly because your grades seems to be something that you're able to control a lot more than your parents' income. So, I feel like tuition is a lot more of a barrier than these barriers that you were talking about. And as for the research that you were citing, Brianna, if you could get that to me, that'd be really appreciated.

I'm really glad to hear that you agree with us on so many of our issues. We're really glad to hear that, I think. But until we change our philosophy around lobbying, I really don't think we're going to get anywhere on them. I'm sorry, we're not a corporation, we're not big Pharma. We don't have money to put behind us when we lobby, we need mobilization and until that happens, I really don't think we're going to get anywhere.

On the point on international students, on how lower tuition may not affect them, really great point. The main difference between Quebec and Newfoundland for me is Newfoundland made a point that they wanted to advocate for lower tuition for international students as well. As a result, they, also, have the lowest tuition for international students in Canada. While Quebec did not prioritize that, we know they have the highest. So that's my points on that. I'm going to end that right there, but anyone here, at all, has any more questions. Feel free to contact me and thank you so much for all of your time.



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Ariel Ottens: Yeah. Thank you for listening to this letter. I know that we're, like, an hour and a half into this meeting. I know it's long. But I really do want to speak to all of you when it comes to supporting the President, when it comes to supporting the Executives. Do be critical about your support for them when they are telling people in this meeting that we shouldn't be fighting for free tuition because that's not going to help people. It will help people, and when it comes to elections coming up as well, I would definitely keep that in mind. Also, hold them accountable when they're working with the Government. That's all I have to say.

Husoni: So, Emma and Brianna touched on most of the issues brought up. I'd, also, like to thank you guys for coming here and it really takes bravery and courage to come in front of us and express your concerns as it relates to our governance. We're open, all the time, to people expressing dissenting opinions because we don't have a set agenda. We are here to represent students and if students have issues in how we govern ourselves and what organizations we're a part of, we're receptive to that criticism. We're always open to meeting with students to talk about these issues because we are here for students and to enhance the University experience of students, in general.

Emma and Brianna already touched on most of the issues that you brought up. I know me and Wasiimah are not really commenting on it, but that's because they are responsible for the external advocacy and as well as most of the internal advocacy is through Emma and the Senate. But just as it relates to the access to Counselors- we agree that we need more Counselors on our Campus and that's something we have been talking to the University's Administration about, as they've mentioned before. But, based on what we can control, we are looking at other alternatives to Counselors, such as covering mental health apps, using mental health apps through our health insurance with Campus Trust which, also, students can gain access to Counselors through because not every student feels comfortable walking into GMH and being seen going into a Counselor's office. Some students would like to talk to a Counselor online from their homes. And that's something, personally, we are looking at and we've already taken steps to have that implemented within the next few months.

Also, a lot of these things require a lot more money. As Brianna mentioned, the CFS is more expensive and as the person that oversees the budget, I can tell you that we do run a very tight budget and we do not want to increase student fees drastically. And just for internal works, even supporting students internally, there's so many things that we'd like to provide more funding for. For instance, academic assistance. We have a very low budget and we want to support students in that area. We want to support Clubs and Societies. But we already have a low budget and if we're supposed to pay more for external advocacy, that would cut down on some of the internal services that we offer to our students. But, again, that's something, if you guys are willing, I know Brianna and Emma mentioned talking to this more so, we could definitely schedule a meeting with you guys to discuss all of that you brought up, in person, in more detail.

Wasiimah: So, thank you, again, for coming and bringing that forward. I know that it's not easy to come forward, around the table and share your concerns, but we really appreciate it and I really want to say thanks. To echo what my colleagues have already said, Emma and Brianna have already touched on the external things and as Husoni said, he and I work more internally.

I can touch upon a couple of things I've been doing internally- when I organize events, I try to make sure to reach out to all constituents, to the Indigenous Community, to the LGBTQIA+ Community, just to make sure everyone is included. So, most of the time those efforts are not seen. But, I am very often in contact with Trenton Augustine or Kyanna, now, to, kind of, make sure that whatever we're doing we're consulting those people first because I can't speak on their behalf. And, that is one thing I strongly believe is a rather than giving them the mic, or rather than taking that from them. So, we made sure to consult with those people and I would just like to say that, as everyone said, I'm, also, more than happy to meet one on one to discuss about internal things that we've been doing to, kind of, tackle those kinds of things.



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Naomi Gullison: So, CFS is about \$0.80 more than CASA, in terms of dues, and goes about a very different way of collecting those. So, right now CASA is collecting \$3.70 per student from us, I believe. And the way they do that is just taking a look at our budget and just taking that directly through CFS, that would be viewed more openly for students. So, we'd have the union dues and then you would have the \$4.50 CFS dues on top of that and that would come with that free tax filing services, healthcare and ethically sourced products, as well. That's all I want to say.

Nikita: I just wanted to thank you guys so much for coming out, like all the Execs. have. But really from bottom of my heart, because I know how terrifying it is to go and to speak about things. So, thank you. Especially, since you're just, like, you guys are normal students here, so I know how terrifying that is. So, thank you for coming. There's a lot of things that I really agree with, a lot of the stuff that you're saying. But there is stuff that the Execs. have mentioned that I agree with them with, as well.

So, I'm seeing both sides, but I just wanted to, kind of, touch on how much support I have for our Execs. I know that no Exec. team or STUSU is perfect. No student leader or political leader is ever perfect. We're just trying the best that we can and we all have to move around and adjust because when you're fighting to make the systems the best that they can be or to change the systems, it is really a learning experience. So, I think they're all trying their best and I know from talking to them personally, they really, really, really care about the students here and I know sometimes with just how they message things and they're really, really busy people. But I see, in talking to each and every one of you guys, that you really, really care about students. I want to thank you for that and all of the support you've given to us.

I, also, just kind of wanted to talk about our current funding situation. Personally, for me, I rely a lot on Government funding for my tuition and I'm really happy to see what you guys are doing and lobbying on our behalf. The funding that I've received, personally, has made such a big difference in my life that allowed me to access education in which I'm so thankful for it. I guess one thing I just really want you to do is, you guys are so passionate, so I want to encourage you to keep getting people to reach out because like I said, we can't achieve anything when we're all working as individuals. So, we really, really need to come together and that's the only way we're ever going to get things done and it's only way we're going to learn. So, I think these conversations are really, really important. And again, I just wanted to thank you guys for coming.

Brianna: Yeah. I just briefly wanted to follow up on a comment made earlier about holding myself to account and the comments I made about free tuition. I will just note that my personal opinion on free tuition, which does align with the work we do externally, is not just a personal opinion. It is one that I have looked at the evidence and weighed very carefully and understand and there is a lot of evidence to support what I said about universal free tuition substantially benefiting those from the highest income brackets quite a bit more than anyone who falls in a low-income bracket. And my opinion is to support those who do need it the most, which is often folks in low- and middle-income families.

So, that's where that opinion does come from. I'm always happy to defend it and speak to it, whether it be to you folks or to regular members of Council. But I did just want to note that that's not a personal opinion that I have formulated. It's one that does come from rooted evidence and as Naomi asked earlier, I'm happy to share any of that information and resources with you folks so you can see where that has come from.

Ariel Ottens: I do really want to say, I am a full-time student and it's exhausting. Like, I'm just tired all the time and my courses are a lot of work. I'm not asking anyone to drop their course loads and to work so much harder because I know that you all do work very hard. I'm asking you to work differently.

Sara: I'm just going to talk really briefly because I have a really hard time articulating my thoughts on the spot. So, bear with me because I might not make lot of sense. But I think something that Ariel and Naomi and Brianna and Emma all tangentially brought up was that a lot of you agree on many things, but where the



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separation begins is, what Ariel just said, how we approach things. So, I do think that what will be really, really helpful is if you all sat down together like we've all been chatting about and talked about it. Maybe there's some ways where we can become less lobbying and more, sort of, radical.

I read a really cool news article a while ago and it was about a Students' Union that literally took over their President's office when they tried to raise tuition. That's cool. I don't know if you could do that. But I think that's, kind of, the thing that's coming up, sort of, like, the way about doing things. So, I think that what really needs to happen is like a one on one or a three on four. Where y'all, you folks, really, sort of, talk about how we, as a Union, could represent the student body in a way that, maybe, the student body wants us to be more radical. If that's the case, how can we implement that into our everyday, sort of, what we try to do. I don't know if I made sense.

(Elizabeth left at 7:33pm reducing quorum to 12)

7.2. NBSA Advocacy Week Overview

Emma Miller: Hi everyone, I am Emma. I am the President of the Mount Allison Students' Union. I'm, also, the Vice-Chair of the New Brunswick Students' Alliance. I am a fourth-year student at Mount Allison, studying Political Science, Spanish and French.

Brianna: Like we've mentioned many times, the NBSA is taking a ton of meetings this week with Government, University Administration, Stakeholders and many other folks bringing forward the proposals and priorities we've been working on all year. And so, I thought, because Emma is here this evening, anyways, we could go over some of these. It's already been long, so we'll try to go through as quick as possible. But just so you folks know what we're advocating on this week. I've also asked Autumn to do up some infographics to post on social media, kind of, like, every day. So, I'll let you folks know that now and then if you see those and you like these ideas, definitely share it and retweet it and stuff like that. So, we'll just go through.

This Advocacy Document (holding up printed Document). It's technically in embargo until tomorrow. You'll see it tomorrow morning, but we'll just go through it super, super quick.

Emma Miller: So, the first recommendation, and ask, that we're bringing to the Provincial Government this week is providing mental health support for Post-Secondary students on all of our Campuses. A bit of research to back this up. We realized that we can't really hire ourselves out of a mental health crisis that exists in New Brunswick. Oftentimes we are facing long wait times, it's really hard to get into see a Counselor, and all that kind of stuff. So, in collaboration with the Atlantic Associations of Universities, specifically Elizabeth Cooley has done a lot of work in the mental health realm. We've been, kind of, and this is an ask we advocated on last year. But we found that a Stepped Care Method of addressing mental health. So that's, situations, like ones that you can just go home and, kind of, use an online support rather than going and accessing those, one on one, direct counseling services in person. Sometimes those help alleviate those wait times that we're experiencing on University Campuses.

So, our recommendation is that the government of New Brunswick provide \$225,000 in funding to help fund a suite of, evidence driven, technology based, Mental Health Intervention Programs for all the individual campuses in New Brunswick. Alongside that, our counterparts, and I'm talking a lot about one ask. But, our Maritime counterparts, who have seen success in this area, for example, Nova Scotia advocated for the exact same thing and they got it last year. Except, their implementation process and how they implemented these apps and whatnot was not communicated as effectively as it could have been to the different students and stakeholders on the Campuses.



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So, alongside the first ask that we have, the second ask is that they provided additional funding so that a Communication and Implementation Strategy is adopted on all Post-Secondary Campuses so that these mental health resources are going to be best utilized.

Brianna: Our next one, this is, kind of, a two part ask, but it's addressing sexual violence on Campus as the theme. We're going about this through, kind of, a dual ended approach. We, also, brought this forward last year. But the first ask is calling on the New Brunswick government to legislate a standalone Sexual Violence Policy at Post-Secondary institutions. So, this is something that we've seen happen in other provinces across the country, namely Manitoba, Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and PEI. It is When we brought this ask forward last year, there was three of those provinces that had done it and since then PEI and Quebec have, also, adopted legislation. So, it's definitely something we see happening more and more across the country. And the reason being, even though many campuses are starting to adopt Sexual Violence Policies, this works to create some oversight and some accountability for institutions.

Also, we have a list of criteria of things we'd like to see in that legislation and reflected in Policies just to make sure that everyone has a good understanding of Sexual Violence Policy. Then the other piece we're asking for is for Government to either, directly or partially, fund what are called Trauma Informed Supports for sexual violence survivors. So, on our campus, this looks like things the Campus Sexual Assault Support Advocate would do. The Mount Allison has a similar service, it's called Share. With services like that, that are specifically dedicated to sexual violence survivors, we've seen Campuses introduce them and they've been really successful. But they often, similar to mental services, really suffer from under funding and things like that. So, we'd like to see those services really bumped up.

The next one is supporting Reconciliation. We've seen, again, as we've talked about it tonight already, that Reconciliation is a priority for many, many folks across the board from student Organizations to Universities to Provincial and Federal governments. So, the approach we've taken this year with the NBSA is, there's many, many Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliations report that are dedicated and directed towards education and many of them, specifically out of provincial level, as well. So, this is provincial, federal, territorial. It's an everyone issue. But what we hear, often, is Universities, when they're asked to implement these Calls to Action, they often say, "well, we don't have the money or the resources to put these into place," which is frustrating. So, the approach we're taking this year is asking the provincial government to establish a fund that Universities could access to implement these 94 Calls to Action. One of the Calls to Action, for example, is about training for Journalism students. So, let's say, STU wanted to implement new courses and new programming to address that Call to Action, but it required more staff support or funding. This, potentially, could be a fund, if it was to put into place, that STU could reach out to the government, and say, "hey, we want to respond to this Call to Action by doing this this and this." Then it can be supported through government funding.

Emma Miller: The next one is Accessibility on Campus. This is something I'm really, really passionate about because I've done a lot of research on it, both academically and just in student advocacy in general. Last year when I was VP Student Life, I realized that accessibility changes on campuses is super costly. To give you a price point example. Putting automatic door openers on buildings is upwards of \$5000. So, it's really, really costly and I think that's something that, kind of, gives us more push to ask the government to kind of help us on Post-Secondary Campuses where there's already so many different barriers to accessing Post-Secondary education to, kind of, help us address some of these barriers.

So, the recommendation is that, the Government of New Brunswick mandate public Post-Secondary institutions in New Brunswick to enact Multi-Year Action Plans to address accessibility on campus socially, academically and physically. That's anything from having accessible buildings with a ramp, to being able to sit in your class and properly read your lecture slides or something like that. So, we realized that this is costly, like I said.



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The second part of the recommendation is that they establish a \$2,000,000 fund, so that there will be access to inclusion for Post-Secondary institutions. They can apply to this fund through the recommendations that they have and their Multi-Year Action Plans that they've enacted, so they can make changes on our campuses. Thus, students with disabilities can have less barriers when accessing and thriving in their Post-Secondary environment.

Brianna: The next one is improvements to financial aid. This has to do with some of the programs we've mentioned, the Free Tuition Program and Tuition Relief for the Middle Class. While the NBSA was a really big reason why these programs exist and it's a really big supporter of these programs and they're quite solid as they stand, there are still ways they could be improved. So, what we're asking for here- the first one is to remove credit checks from the Grant applications. When these programs were introduced, the provincial government was like, "oh, it'd be easier to just integrate the student Financial Aid application." Whether you're getting loans or you're getting free tuition or if you're getting partial tuition relief because you come from a middle-income family, regardless of the situation, it's all integrated into the same application. So, folks who apply for student financial aid in New Brunswick are familiar with this.

But what's really, kind of, confusing is if you come from a low-income family and you know, you're going to qualify for free tuition, at the end of this process you still have to submit a credit check. Which is really odd because you're not paying the money back. Often the people who these programs are most designed to support, those from low income families, traditionally don't have the best credit. So, it can be really, really intimidating to see that you have to submit a credit check knowing that you or your family might not have the best credit. And so, we've actually heard students cumbersome say that they've actually just not applied for the programs because that barrier is really, really intimidating for them. Also, it just doesn't make sense because like I said, you don't have to pay the money back. It's a Grant. So, we'd like to see, basically, the applications put into, so loans, grants. Loans, you have to submit to credit checks, you have to pay the money back. But grants you don't, because that just doesn't make sense.

That's one and the next one is, currently, part-time students and Law students are not eligible for the Free Tuition Program or Tuition Relief for the Middle Class and we'd like to see those folks included. Part-time students, I think, we can all, certainly, agree because that just makes a lot of sense. But, with Law students, the rationale for that is that other Post-Degree Bachelor level programs, like Education and Social Work, those students are eligible under these programs. But, Law as another Post Degree Bachelor's level program is not eligible. So, it just seems like a very inconsistent approach and, also, a barrier to accessibility and so we'd love to see that change.

Additionally, there is one debt relief program in New Brunswick and it's called the Timely Completion. As we mentioned, New Brunswick does have the highest average student debt in the country, at \$35,200, which is huge. There is a program in place to try to relieve some of this, but it doesn't do a great job. It's called the Timely Completion Benefit. Basically, the way it works now is if you have at least \$32,000 in government debt, then you can apply to this program, within six months. If you've completed your Degree in a timely fashion, which is like the expected time, then \$32,000 and above, you have the provincial portion of your debt forgiven, which is about 40% of your debt above that \$32,000 cap. When it was first introduced, the cap was \$26,000. Then money was taken out of the program and the cap jumped up to 32. So, it's a really odd system where it, kind of, incentivizes students to take on more debt in order to access it. And it's just not effective for a number of reasons because we see from the Maritime provinces of higher education students or commission that students are taking more than the expected time to complete their Degree. The expected time is four years for anyone who's not aware

(Sarah left at 7:51pm reducing quorum to 11)



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The third thing is, we'd like students to be automatically assessed for this program. Like I said, under Timely Completion Benefit, you have to apply manually, within six months. And that just seems silly. So, we were just like, students, when they're graduating, automatically assess if they meet the eligibility criteria, they just get their relief. That's a complicated one, but a great one.

Emma Miller: The last one is ID cards for international students. Our good pals, Yana and Emma, have been working on this all year. So, basically international students often face the barrier of having to carry their passports with them everywhere when they're trying to go get a Costco membership or go to a restaurant with their friends. And it's a really easy fix if we just issued them a government issued ID when they get here. It's not that costly, I think it's \$48. So yeah, a good anecdote that we often use, myself and Yana, when we explain this is we have a MASU program at our school. So, a huge group of international students tried to go to Moncton to have dinner at a restaurant and because their passports were in a different language, they were not allowed to sit in the pub area and they had to come back. It's sad they didn't actually get to do that. It's because of that barrier and because we don't have that resource available to our international students, they're experiencing even more barriers when going into Post-Secondary education. So, basically our ask is we call upon the government to subsidize existing nondrivers provincial photo identification cards for all international students.

Brianna: International students in our province now get Medicare coverage. We see this as integrated when you're applying for your Medicare, you can just tick a box, "say yeah, I would like an ID card," and then, you know, it could be a really simplified process that way. And just be an additional barrier for international students just lifted that they could just do some general life things, without having to worry about carrying a passport around or having it translated. So, that's like the super, super fast rundown of the Advo. Doc.

I apologize because there is a lot more in here. But like I said, this goes live tomorrow morning, out with the press release. So, I encourage you all to read through one of these bad boys. It'll be on our website. And like I said, we're going to put out graphics and information. So, feel free to share, if you like these idea, if you like these asks and tell the folks that you're talking to what we're doing. If you have any questions right now, Emma and I are happy to answer them.

Sarie: I have one question that I've actually wondered for a while and you brought it up about, you know, how people could get qualified for Social Work and Education. Does that mean like if you got free or subsidized tuition for four years in your Undergrad, that means you cannot qualify for it. Is it a certain amount you can qualify with total for your whole life? Is there a cap for that?

Brianna: So, there's five years of eligibility. I think, STUs education, for instance, could squeeze in an Education Degree there, I think, in your five years. But, especially where the programs have just been introduced. Let's say someone was in their third year and got free tuition for the third and fourth year and then went on to Education, they would absolutely fall within that five years. So, basically, there's five years, maximum, to qualify for this program.

Sarie: So, let's say, they do move on to Law school, which is a three-year degree. Social Work and Education are the one year, so you could fit that in. Whereas, now that the program is for people that are starting in their first year, would get hopefully the whole four years. Then they go to law school, they wouldn't qualify anyways because it is a full, well they may qualify for one year. Is that so?

Brianna: Yeah. So, they might qualify for one year or the other thing that happens is you can, also, file as a dependent and so let's say under your family's income you maybe didn't qualify for it because your parents made x amount of dollars. But, once you turn 22, which is usually, if you start right out of high school, you finished your Undergrad around that time. Then you qualify for free tuition for your Law degree, if it was covered. So yeah, it would really be dependent on everyone's situation and stuff like that. But yeah, it could



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be one year if someone qualified all the way through their Undergrad and then went to Law school or situations could change, one person graduated from their Undergraduate degree and all of a sudden, they can access the program whereas maybe they couldn't when they were supported by their family.

Emma Miller: So, I'm, also, taking notes because I'm currently in the process of restructuring our Students' Representative Council, but we call it Administrative Council as our council is not structured as flawlessly as yours with all of these different representatives. We just have five Councillors, At-large and our Exec. and some students. So, I'm taking notes of your individual responsibility. So, if you're like, "hey, I want to tell you even more, about what I do." Like, yeah, come talk to me.

7.3. CASA Update on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Work

Emma: Okay. Well we're taking advantage of our opportunity of having a fellow CASA Board member in town to just talk about some of the work that's in my portfolio because the Director of Advocacy focuses more on campaigning, Get out the Vote efforts and that kind of thing. So, I did want to invite Yana to talk a little bit about what she does. She is a Director At Large, which means that her portfolio is something that she ran. Introducing is something that she identified as, maybe, a flaw or room for improvement in the Organization. So, when she ran back in May, she ran on the promotion of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, which I think is a really notable thing.

I, also, do want to state, folks, if you have any questions, especially after the meeting that we've just had. This is, also, an excellent time to ask them. One of our core values is, also, transparency and so I, personally, believe the work we do is really valuable and I, hope, that you folks do too and I, hope, that you feel like you are able to express that. But, I think, it would be great to have Yana just do a quick overview of the work that she's doing, but please do not be afraid to ask those questions. We are for you folks.

Yana Titarenko: Well, Emma, kind of, already introduced me. So, I'm Yana, the Vice-President External Affairs for the Mount Allison Students' Union and, as well as the Director of EDI for CASA. Yeah, I'm going to try and keep it short. I am really cognizant of the time. And so, if there any questions, I'll stick around afterwards so you can approach me and ask.

But some of the things this year that I did run when I ran for the Director At Large position- I ran with the mind or with the plan in mind of doing the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Lens. And after that I was elected. So, that was, sort of, what the CASA wanted. Afterwards, I created a Committee. So, an EDI Committee, which is, first it's History, which is super exciting. We are, currently, working on a lot of great things. One of the key things that I'm, currently, working on, as a Director of EDI, has to do with a Membership Sponsorship Program for Indigenous student Representatives.

CASA, we're very much aware that we are a non-indigenous Organization. But we do strive towards creating more affordable, accessible education for all students. So, currently, we don't have a Board position for an Indigenous Representative or anything of the sorts and we don't have, sort of a, self edification, if you are Indigenous students. But two years ago, there was a report that was put forward for CASA on how they have to, sort of, work to create more Indigenous inclusive, I guess, initiatives in our Organization. So, one of the things that I did, I'm creating this Membership Sponsorship Program, with a lot of consultation with our Indigenous Affairs Coordinator within the University level. So, I've met with her, a lot, to talk with her about the project. I, also, met with our Indigenous Students Support Group on our Campus to get feedback from them on the Sponsorship Program, as well. There's a lot of conversation happening. The members of my Committee are, also, meeting with their own respective Indigenous Students' Representatives on their Campuses. So, we have folks from Alberta, we have folks from Nova Scotia. All of those. There's lots of conversations that's happening.



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The idea behind this is that we want to increase Indigenous students voice within our Organization because we do fight towards putting forward Commissions to the government that have to do with Indigenous students. There is no way around trying to speak for Indigenous students. We are trying to offer them a voice at and around our table, but, also, being very respectable in the manner that we do it. We do realize that how we function, our democratic way of functioning, is very much different than from what the Indigenous folks do. So, I created this Membership Sponsorship with that in mind, because I am, also, a non-Indigenous student.

So, that's what a lot of conversation is being taking into consideration. So, how we would essentially work, I'll just give a quick overview, is that you folks have Indigenous Representative on your Council. So, this person would be able to attend the CASA Foundation's Conference and, essentially, everyone who has Indigenous Student Representative on their Council or a similar role. We do represent 22 members, but I'm sure Emma has mentioned that before. They would be able to attend the Foundation's Conference. At that Conference they would be able to, also, all meet with the rest with the other Indigenous Representatives and create a Mandate. I called it, like, Indigenous Students' Circle, essentially, and so they themselves will be able to meet, create a Mandate for what they would like to work on this year. It would be on their own terms and then following that. So, we would, also, cover all of their costs, whether it be for travel or accommodations.

Then, they would be able to, sort of, figure out if they might create a Committee or however they would like to work. Afterwards, we would be able to sponsor two Indigenous Students' Representatives from that Circle to attend the following Conference. We have four Conferences, so they'd be able to attend Policy Strategy or Advocacy Weekend and Annual General Meeting. Keep in mind that it doesn't have to be the same Representative. They can be different ones. You know, for example, if we're having a Conference in the Maritimes, they'll most likely send someone who's from the Maritimes just to, kind of, do that. But they would be able to serve, sort of, via, we use zoom or Skype or whatever, to keep that in mind, to keep that conversation going.

Then they would report back to us at Policy Strategy Conferences and stuff like that so that we can still make sure that there's that link between the Board and the Indigenous Students' Representative Circle. So, with all of that, there's a lot of financial, sort of, barriers that comes with this. So, currently, the final step of this program is finding the financial supports within our CASA budget. We do have a very tight budget, to be completely transparent, but we are trying to move money around. CASA has done a lot of different reviews or a lot of different research papers, stuff like that when it comes to looking at how we advocate for Indigenous students. But we do believe, and we see that this is really important. So, currently our Treasure and our Executive Director are working really hard on our budget to find that and hoping that Membership Sponsorship program gets approved at our AGM.

So, that's sort of like a quick overview of it. Some of the other things that the EDI Committee's working on is Culture Competency Training. So, I, myself, am working with the President of StFX Students' Union on bringing forward the Culture Competency Training program to CASA Conferences. I will, we will be doing a focus group on the StFX Campus, here, in a few weeks. So, that focus group will allow me to get feedback from their StFX Students' Union Council and see how they value the training and then bring it back to CASA because we do believe that, we need to understand that, although, we do represent a lot of different students. We need to know how to work with those students, how to hear what's important for them.

Then, one last thing that I'm working on, I'm creating an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Strategy Plan. So that has been in the works and we're doing that by having surveys and getting feedback from our member institutions to see what they would like to see and how they want CASA to improve their EDI outlook on things. So, those are the three of my main things that I'm working on, currently, as EDI Director. But like Emma mentioned, if you folks have any questions on CASA, in general, please feel free to come and ask. I'll be more than happy to stick around and chat about it.



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A lot of the work that we do, we do try to keep all the students engaged in the conversations. And that's something that we value a lot and having the Maritimes students' voices, even, on our Board is something that's huge. Having Emma on the Board for STU is absolutely amazing. And just, I guess, one other thing is that a student from STU has, actually, reached out to our Home Office to talk about how CASA approaches Indigenous student advocacy. So, we will be meeting with them sometime this week.

Sara: I don't have anything exciting to say, I just want to say thank you, to both of you for coming here.

Emma: I just wanted to say thank you, as well. And thank you folks for sticking around, I know it's getting late.

8. Questions, Announcements & Notices

Wasiimah: Again, I would like to thank you both for being here and for sticking through the whole meeting. I just have two things to mention that I forgot to mention in my report. First, the Consent Panel that the Sexual Assault Prevention Committee put together is tomorrow from 6-7 in the OC Lounge. Dr. Karla O'Regan, Elizabeth Tuck and Ashley Young from FSACC would be there to talk about Consent, the myth around Consent and the social and legal aspect. So, just grab your friends and come learn more about Consent.

And on Wednesday we'll be having a Mental Health Panel at 7:00 PM in the OC Lounge, again. There's a couple of panelists that we have. I'm still waiting to hear back from them. It's been so hard to get a whole lot of a professor to sit on that Panel, which is very surprising. But I'm still working on it. So far, we have Kelly Humber Kelly, Kyanna Kingbird and Manuel Garcia confirmed to sit on that panel. So, that would be very interesting to, kind of, talk about mental health and coping strategies and resources available on and off campus.

Sara: I forgot to mention in my report about the last Q&A meeting I went to, which was this past Thursday. They were discussing what they wanted to do for their first, sort of, major event of the year and it's not certain yet. But they're thinking that the first event they will do will be a Board Game Night, probably, with food because everyone comes to an event where there's food because we're all hungry. And so, I'll let you know once we have more information on that.

Madison: Will we be having a meeting next week with the Holiday on Monday?

Brianna: I believe so, but we'll get back to you, for sure. If you will not be able to attend the meeting next Sunday because you, may be, are going home for the long weekend, just let us know. Then, we can see if we have quorum, we'll probably move forward with the meeting. If it doesn't look like that we will, then we'll, probably, cancel.

9. Adjournment

Motion for adjournment was moved by Husoni.

Seconded by Diana.

Motion for adjournment was carried.

Adjournment at 8:05 pm.

Submission:

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on February 14, 2019.

Brianna Hill
su_secretary@stu.ca
Recording Secretary



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