**16th Meeting of the 50th SRC**

**Date: Sunday April 12th 2024**

**Location: Dawn Russell Lounge, JDH**

1. **Call to Order**

Elizabeth Namit, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on April 12th, 2024, at 3:12pm

1. **Land Acknowledgement**

St. Thomas University Students’ Union recognizes and respectfully acknowledges that it carries out its work on the traditional unceded territories of the Wolastoqiyik, and Mi’kmaq peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which these nations first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of territories, but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik titles and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. STUSU members and staff pay respect to the elders, past and present, and descendants of this land.

1. **Roll call**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Name | Present | Regrets | Absent |
| President | Stevie DeMerchant |  |  |  |
| Vice President Administration | Ahmik Burneo |  |  |  |
| Vice President Education | Emily Boucher |  |  |  |
| Vice President Student Life | Isabella Baralt |  |  |  |
| Indigenous Representative | Tanner J Augustine |  |  |  |
| International Student Representative | Ana Lucía Pavón |  |  |  |
| At Large Representatives (2) | Lauren Hayes |  |  |  |
| Off campus Representatives (2) | Emma Craib |  |  |  |
| Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative | - |  |  |  |
| First Year Representative | Aiden Steeves |  |  |  |
| Harrington Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Vanier Representative | Fae Swinamer |  |  |  |
| Holy Cross Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | Colby Beers |  |  |  |
| Grad Class President | Lindsay Graham |  |  |  |

Quorum has been met with 8/11 members.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] BIRT** the Board approve the minutes of the 14th Meeting of the 50th SRC as presented.

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** President

**Motion** CARRIES

**[4.2.] BIRT** the Board approve the minutes of the 15th Meeting of the 50th SRC as presented.

**Moved by:** President

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Review of Agenda**

**[5.1.] BIRT** the Board amend the agenda as presented to include items: 10.1. “Budget Update March” – Presented by VP Administration and 10.2. “Clubs and Societies Operational Policy 7” – Presented by VP Administration

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion** CARRIES

**[5.2.] BIRT** the Board adopt the agenda as presented.

**Moved by:** Off-Campus Rep

**Seconded by:** Indigenous Rep

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Unfinished Business.**

No unfinished business available.

1. **Executive Reports.**

*Executives provided verbal report followed by a written one.*

**7.1****President report – Stevie DeMerchant**

**Meetings:**

* Senate on Reconciliation: During this meeting, the Students Reconciliation Committee provided an update on their work, we then moved to a discussion around smudging protocol and updates to Wabanaki Center.
* Meeting with the chair to discuss their transition to President.
* SEC meeting

**Miscellaneous:**

* Emergency Bursary Applications
* Solar eclipse event
* Preparation for STUSU AGM
* Pick up Community Food Smart; 19 bags.

**7.2. Vice President Administration report – Ahmik Burneo**

**April 8-12**

* The STUSU was part of the organization of the Eclipse along with the university. This was an event that was primarily organized by the VPSL, she may give more updates in a bit, and I helped in the setup on Monday.
* The St. Thomas University African Caribbean Students Community has officially received their email as requested.
* The budget update for March has been completed which I will be presenting in a bit.
* I received an academic assistance application, but the situation was more of an emergency, so I directed them to the Emergency Bursary Committee.
* I went to the office to find a physical copy of an old constitution of the Political Science Society as some students are interested in bringing it back. I shared with them the scanned copy.
* The Executives had its SEC.
* I’m in the process of coordinating the proper transition with the incoming executive team, and planning the upcoming meetings for the budget town hall where STUSU will present its next fiscal year budget, and employment opportunities available in the STUSU, among other things. I’m also ensuring that all the inquiries from students interested in starting a new club or society are responded to and that all the information about this is shared with the incoming VP Administration.

**7.3. Vice President Education report – Emily Boucher**

No Report Available.

**7.4. Vice President Student Life report – Isabella Baralt**

* Re-ordered and picked up the wrong sweaters for the STUSU members.
* Organized and set up the Photo Booth for the Eclipse event a s well as the Barbecue and the DJ.  The Eclipse event was a collaboration between student services and STUSU and it was so great.
* Printed, signed and organized the Certificates for AGM’s
* Organized and set up the space for AGM’s this afternoon.
* Have been discussing with UNB the new contract for Saferide.
* Coordinated with Aramark the Catering for the AGMs
* Finalized all invoiced and payments for all the services and elements of the eclipse event.
* Had SEC
* Hosted my office hours in the Helpdesk.
* Finished the presentation for the AGMs.
* Received 5 emergency applications.
* Met with Taylor to discuss the future of the operations of the Help Desk.
* Started updating my transition document
* Posted and created the Student Services Survey. We will be giving out an iPad.

1. **Employee Updates.**

No employee report available.

1. **Representative Reports.** 
   1. **International Rep report**

Met and talked to Carrie and Carla earlier during the week to set up the logistics for end of year celebration from the international office. We met up with Carrie and Carla to choose the winner for the AGM award for international student.

* 1. **Indigenous Rep report**

Nomination for the reconciliation committee starts Monday, April 15 and ends on the Friday 19 with the election happening the week after.

1. **New Business** 
   1. **Budget Update March – VP Administration**

**VP Administration**: I will make sure to update the budget update on the website so you can check later today. Essentially, again there’s been some spending in the supplies budget line, some spending on communications. Regarding conferences, there is an increase compared to the previous month. Technically, STUSU received reimbursement from CASA. Stevie can explain a bit further.

**President:** The conference line this year is a little different. This year I was sitting on the board as their chair of NIAC, National Indigenous Advocacy Committee, and so CASA paid for all the accommodations.

* 1. **Clubs and Societies Operational Policy 7- VP Administration**

**VP Administration**: So essentially, Governance Committee has been discussing about our Operational Policy 7 from the Students Union which essentially is clubs and societies, particularly for ratified clubs and societies section 7 subsection 7.6 stipulates the following, that all clubs and societies must meet the minimum criteria below to gain ratified status: it says that at least 20% of the group and one of its executive must be members of the St Thomas Student Union, and by “members of the students union” it means all STU students. The Governance Committee is pretty much concerned that this number is so low, like it only requires 20% of STU students to start a club and that any other university can represent 80% of the club, and they still have the right to gain STU students money. Because again, ratification means students can access such funding from the Union. So we feel like it’s quite, it’s not like very favourable to have that option open; it has not yet happened to any club like there’s a huge representation of STU students in all clubs that we have here on campus. But again, we just wanted to bring it to SRC attention before SRC is done for the academic year, again to make sure for future occasions it doesn’t happen as it is still a viable option. So I am bringing the suggestion, again it is open to discussion, we can change numbers according to your thoughts to perhaps increase at least, I’ll give a number, up to perhaps at least 50 or 75% of the group, and by group it means members and rather just be one of the executive, we increase it to 2 of the executive at least must be members of the Students Union. And why two? Because the criteria to start a club requires 3 executive officers. So again, it could be only 1 student from St Thomas and 2 from any other university to start [currently] to start, so for those 3 executives we are trying to push a requirement of at least 2 of them must be STU students. And again, this is open, like even observers can comment on this, but at the end only SRC voting members can decide on the official numbers for this amendment.

**Off-campus Rep:** I think the expectation of 50% membership of being STU students is fine, same with the 2 execs giving it to at least 60% executive membership, this is you know STU Afterall. The other thing I would point out is that, I don’t know if it’s particular to History Society, or if it’s to each society to differentiate what’s a member but, a sitting member is anyone who attends more than 3 meetings for us at least. So that would be my question, I mean obviously only sitting members can vote on most societies, but maybe that language might be adjusted somehow to be more inclusive of that.

**VP Administration:** And that is something that is actually a very good comment, cause this team, the governance committee, has been trying so hard this year to push to have a clear definition of how clubs and societies define membership. Because it is so vague that there has been occasions where, lets say I’ve never attended any club or society meetings throughout the year, elections happen, and I go there, sit there and make my rite of vote, because technically I just said “I’m a member, I’m interested in the club” and there’s nothing that will contradict for the executive to say I’m not a member. So that’s why like with any club that’s been trying to reach out to incorporate them, or get ratification or any club that has been trying to make any amendments, we are trying to please clarify what it means to be a member. Like say “only active members can be voting members” but what does “Active member mean? That they have attended at least 3 consecutive meetings, or they have signed a form and those things. So I believe that that is something the governance committee has been trying to push for all clubs.

**Indigenous Rep:** Also, I’ve been pushing that like for the exec roles, a clear definition that if we that a role was just there to give someone an exec position, we would ask them to dissolve that. So, it’s just like, it seems like there’s a lot of “prestige execs” where it wasn’t really clear what they were doing. So yeah, maybe like keep with that, in the next years governance committee, observing if these exec positions deserve to stay there, or just be pushed aside.

**VP Student Life:** I just want to add that I agree with what everyone has said and I think 50% is a good number but I would even advocate for 75% of membership of STU students in order for it to get ratified. Especially if we are also pushing for 2 execs, I think like it’s not that much, and they will be getting students money. But food for thought, we’ll see what everyone thinks, but I think that 75% is a good number.

**Observer:** I think even having even just like a majority of STU students cause I think even, even just like 50% still entitles the entire club to the benefits of being a STU club. So I feel like even just having, I feel like maybe bare minimum should be at least a bare majority of the students are from STU. You know what I mean?

**Observer:** I think 50-75% is a good number

**Off-Campus Rep:** I guess the other thing I would say is just because obviously UNB is who we’re thinking of joining? I know like the Reproductive Justice Organization would have my membership and I was wondering; do we know what the UNB Student Union number is on it? Cause it doesn’t make sense to me if they don’t, like we’re two different institutions, but if these are the primary groups that are mingling type thing?

**Indigenous Rep:** Isn’t there like two different, like recognized by the student’s union and ratified? Could we have like 50% for recognition and 75% for ratification. So majority students for actual money for our student budget, around half to be recognized by the students union?

**International Rep:** I agree

**Observer:** I have two questions; first would that membership percentage only apply to ratification? So already ratified clubs wouldn’t be at risk of losing their ratified status if those membership ratios change?

**VP Administration:** So every year there is the process of confirming ratification of the club, like for example, if a club fails to attend the clubs and society’s annual meeting they will lose their ratification status. So again, it’s like a yearly thing. Because they must maintain this policy, like they abide to the clubs and societies policy to continue their ratification status.

**Chair:** question for clarification: A lot of societies will lose members over the summer due to graduating students, so if their membership ledger changes over the summer and confirmation for ratification is in the fall, could they lose ratification due to this policy if STUSU members of their society were to graduate and then it fell below this 75% requirement.

**VP Administration:** First of all, that would be something that will definitely be considered by the new governance committee, but as of now, we’re not that concerned about the impact it will have on clubs and societies because essentially there is a majority of STU students involved in all clubs. So it’s not like there will be a very big impact as of now, but it is a good concern to be raised. And I do have an answer for your [Off-Campus Rep – concerning UNB Policy], UNB has the policy that at least 50% of the leadership shall be UNB students.

**Observer:** I’d now like to weigh in on the actual numbers, I think the 2 executives is definitely a good change, I agree with that one for sure, because I think with STU clubs and societies, the important thing is to make sure they’re STU student led. But for the membership, I would be hesitant, I don’t think a requirement above 50% would be good. Because for example for the Economics Society, outgoing I guess, STU has a very small economics department. UNB also has an economics department, and a large reason for the Economics Societies existence is to forge connections outside. And so if the ideal at least for us is to have membership that isn’t just restricted to STU students, to go beyond just our campus community but to the larger academic community, so it’s not an issue right now for us but I can see requirement like that, potentially hampering that.

**VP Administration:** What if rather than just stating that x number of the group and 2 executive must be members of the students union, why don’t we stipulate very clearly that at least 50% of the group, and 50% of the executive must be members of the St Thomas Students Union, because I’m also concerned that in the future, it only requires 3 students to start, so only 2 are from STU, but the positions that they are trying to open, are, let’s say 6. So at the end of the day, 2 will still be below [50%], so it’s just important to say at least 50% of the executive, doesn’t matter the number shall at least be from STU.

**Off-Campus Rep:** I agree with the 50% mark, the other thing about, just as someone who interacts with clubs and societies as well is that, like when I think of, we’re worried about the money part of this. When I think of when clubs and societies typically apply for funding it’s when they are doing public and forward facing things, like we’re hosting events, we’re trying to get more STU students generally outside the particular club and society participation. So I think the requirement of 50% makes more sense in that regard because by having say the 50 over the 75, it would produce the possibility to still access funding but to increase membership on campus or at least interaction.

**VP Administration:** So are we good with saying “At least 50% of the membership and at least 50% of it’s executive must be members of the St Thomas Students Union for ratification” [as an amendment to policy 7, part 3, subsection 7.6 of the Clubs and Societies Operational Policy] The I would like to raise a motion to amend.

**[10.2.] BIRT** the board amend the Clubs and Societies Operational Policy

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** Indigenous Rep

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**
   1. **Question- Off campus rep**

I just had a question, when do student senate committee appointments actually end, and if it is before the annual meeting, are we still supposed to attend as the student representative? I finish in May but when I look at my official letter it says holding member until April 22nd.

**President:** I think it’d be just as well to just in terms of that meeting.

* 1. **Employee opportunities with STUSU- VP Administration**

I would just like to remind everyone that employee opportunities with the STUSU will open next week, there are five open positions, so spread the word. Working for the STUSU is a great job, based on experience.

* 1. **Survey- VP Student Life**

I already mentioned it in my update, but the student survey please have a look at it we really want to know and receive feedback.

* 1. **Free meal in meal hall during exams - VP Student Life**

We wanted to offer free meals in meal hall to students during exam week. It is still in the works We wanted to talk about it and see how we can make it work; we have a meeting hopefully tomorrow so hopefully we will have a better idea. We think we should do it for only five days a week without including the makeup exam days. We are not sure when we should do it as we do not know how many people will be around.

**VP Administration:** We came up with the idea, perhaps it is like 30 meals per day that it would be first come first serve, but I want to hear your thoughts of what you think will be a better process.

**Off campus rep;** Great idea, I think the Monday, in my brain most exams are Monday to Saturday and I also think the first fifty maybe.

**First year rep:** I just think it’s a great idea especially in terms of things such as student engagement.

**VP Student Life:** Yeah I think we are going to fifty and do it for six days.

1. **Adjournment.**

**[12.1.] BIRT** the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 3:50pm.

**Moved by:** Indigenous rep.

**Seconded by:** Off campus rep.

**Motion** CARRIES

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on April 17th at 10:00pm

**Alyssa Ivany**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council