**11th Meeting of the 50th SRC**

**Date: Friday, February 2nd 2023**

**Location: Holy Cross House, Room 5**

1. **Call to Order**

Elizabeth Namit, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on February 2nd, 2024, at 3:02pm.

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 | Aidan Steeves |  |  |  |
| Harrington Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Vanier Representative | Fae Swinamer |  |  |  |
| Holy Cross Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | Colby Beers |  |  |  |
| Grad Class President | Lindsay Graham |  |  |  |

Quorum has been met 8/11.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] BIRT** the Board approve the minutes of the 10th 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 approves to amend the agenda as presented to include “Item 10.2. January Budget Update and 10.3. Sex and Accessibility Week.”

**VP Student Life:** I would like to add two points I would like to add updates on sex and accessibility week and present of the budget update for January Budget.

**Moved by:** VP Student Life

**Seconded by:** President

**Motion** CARRIES

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

**Moved by:** President

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Unfinished Business.**

**Budget Update December – VP Admin**

* For December we finally got the oppurtonity to get the technology fixed and so the big changes in December were in communications because back in November the purchase of Canva pro was approved, it is not a big change, but it reflects that change of purchasing Canva pro.
* There are some changes in the SRC general budget due to the different goodies that Isabella has offered us throughout the SRC.
* As well there has been some changes in conferences but particularly the general manager is flagging that this needs to increase because we are still waiting to get reimbursement from campus trust.
* Then the activities, during December we had the winter formal so that where most of the budget was taken, however due to the selling of the tickets it pretty much balances it. For December there are 3199.99, for emergency bursaries we have 14,350.00 for December. For clubs and societies for December it was left 4032.97.

1. **Executive Reports.**

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

* 1. **President report – Stevie DeMerchant**

**Meetings**

* Meeting with Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Executive Director and National Indigenous Advocacy Committee co-chair: During this touch-base we focused on the upcoming campaign being done by CASA x NIAC x Assembly of First Nations to highlight the educational gaps for Indigenous students in Canadian universities.
* Meeting with CASA policy analyst, CASA communications, and NIAC co-chair: during this meeting we were presented the survey that will be used and the timeline of the campaign.
* Meeting with student to discuss internal environmental advocacy. During this discussion we were presented ways in which St. Thomas could become more sustainable. We are hoping to have this student join us at SRC to share her ideas and vision.
* Meeting with New Brunswick Student Alliance Board of Directors. During this meeting each partnering institution provided a campus update, discussed possible campaign ideas and received a financial update.

**Miscellaneous**

* Caught the ending of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations E-Plenary.
* Processed multiple emergency bursary applications.
* Answered emails from students regarding meeting times.
* Help Desk hour at JDH, I had a few students stop by to ask questions about lost and found and directions.
  1. **Vice President Administration report – Ahmik Burneo**
* We were finally able to get the budget update for both December and January.
* I received three academic assistance applications from students, which were respectively reviewed by the Finance Committee.
* I met with the Finance Committee.
* I’ve been in touch with a Club regarding a funding application they are planning to send.
* The STUSU was contacted by the Human Rights Department which is interested in starting a society. I’ve given them all the information and guidance with the process.
* Next week I will be meeting with some students and staff as they are interested in starting a media club.
* I held my office hours at the Help desk today.

**Vice President Education report – Emily Boucher**

* Held the first New Brunswick Student Alliance Board Meeting of the New Year
* We chatted about the hiring process for the new Executive Director, possible campaign ideas, and upcoming meetings for our new funding proposals.
* Have been finalizing the details and set up for Pizza and Policy with MLA David Coon
* There will be free pizza available in the Dawn Russell Lounge as MLA David Coon comes to campus to answer any student questions.
* Met with a first-year student about one of their sustainability advocacy initiatives
* We discussed how STUSU can offer their support as well as provide any advice for the project
* Currently in the midst of setting up the sustainability committee
* There was little interest in the committee at the beginning of the year, thus, I want to put a call out for the committee to get more students involved
* Begun working on a press release for the NBSA following the resignation of Minister Dunn
  1. **Vice President Student Life report – Isabella Baralt**
* Organized sex week through meetings with:
  + Student Health Centre to plan and STBII Clinic.
  + Brittany Sprague, Mental Health Coordinator  to coordinate events for sex week.
  + Jeremy Fowler, Residence Supervisor to discuss possible collaborations.
  + Megen Gaudet, Campus Sexual Assault Support Advocate to discuss possible events.
* Promoted Community Food Smart Program and Submitted 12 orders for February.
* Received 3 emergency  bursaries applications
* Started promotion and organizing sex week material
* Met with Cory Flynn and Aramark to discuss access of meal hall to off campus students
* Met with Accessibility to discuss Accesibility week.
* Help desk office hours
* Executive meeting

1. **Employee Updates.**

No employee report available.

1. **Representative Reports.** 
   1. **Indigenous Rep report**

* Just came back from multiple meetings today talking about the smudging policy for res life after about four years in the making it is almost done and about to be put into place. What forced their hand was Indigenous students already began smudging in their rooms unofficially and so it was just to push it through, it causes no fire alarms that was their biggest problem with it.
* I also met with the director of the Wabanaki center to address the two complaints made by students. One was a student spilling out hate speech in the dorms against anyone who wasn’t white basically. Another was a conflict with their RA every time there was a marijuana problem this student would be targeted. They didn’t know why but he thought it was because he was Indigenous, so we started looking into that.
* Came out of a meeting with the Wabanaki director and the director of res life. To talk about changes or information sessions for the RAs to talk about cultural differences for Indigenous students such as smudging and other things. Everything seems to be proceeding well. Unfortunately, we still need an update on the hate speech. Unfortunately, I can’t get in touch with the student simply because we keep missing each other on campus. I look forward to meeting with the student and resolving the issue.
* Indigenous student society is having a sticker sale this Tuesday from 10-3.
  1. **Vanier rep report**
* Vanier has had a very successful month, our recycling program ended up doing very well I think it will be a huge thing in the future for Vanier and hopefully other residences.
* Karaoke last month and had over fifty members attend, had a very good turnout for that.
* We are now planning our host dinner.
* Valentine’s day event this month
* We have filled our quota for events.

**Indigenous Rep:** what is the valentine’s day event or is it still in the works?

**Vanier Rep:** we are basically doing safe sex trivia.

* 1. **First year rep report**
* I just thought I would mention super quick that I have met with the girl who is planning the imitative about making the gym a more sustainable and livelier place. She got some suggestions from me on where to go and where to look, we basically just had a big chat on how I thought it was a really interesting and exciting idea and that I am excited to be a part of it.

1. **New Business.** 
   1. **Operational Changes of the Helpdesk – VP Student Life**

* It is not a secret that keeping it operational is very hard because we run on student volunteers. The schedule is hard because students get busy, and schedules get complicated. We have been working with the university since the summer, to find ways to make the help desk to increase the services we can provide and how to increase support for students. Being able to support students with financial services, academic advising and class registration having a broader understanding of the university is ideal. Having a person that has the ability to do a little bit of everything, they came to us, and we came to the understanding that the help desk can improve its operations if we were to have a full-time staff in the help desk from 8-4 every day. The University hired Taylor who is the student success navigator. She is very sweet she is working right now from the residence life office, but she started to do office hours in the help desk. She has access to self-service and many platforms that volunteers at the help desk don’t have access too.
* The main change in the help desk starting next academic year, Taylor will be in the help desk every day from 8:30-4:30pm. This does not mean students won’t be able to volunteer, it means that we will increase the services. The idea is to keep the help desk operational until 6:30 or even 7. If we can increase the services, we provide for longer it is even better, so we are benefiting students more and providing them with more services which is our goal. This is the main operational change that we will see next academic year. The executive council will still be able to host office hours in the help desk, and reps if they want to, they will be able to as well. The activities coordinator will still be able to use this space to prep for events. The help desk will still be operational for volunteers because many students use the help desk, and it is good for students to get involved.

**International Rep:** so basically, this is just a new position for student services, like Kath student success coach is basically the same.

**Student Life:** Yes, so her name is Taylor Armstrong she has already been hired as a professional staff, professional staff have access to financial services, registrars are able to do of things that students do not have access to. It will be able to provide these services to students in an easier way they can chat with Taylor. It will help centralize services in the university, many questions can be solved by her. Students will still be able to volunteer, after office hours, with Taylor, there will be spaces to cover lunch there, we are exploring those options for students to provide those services if they desire to.

* 1. **January budget update – VP Admin**
* In January we have some spending on office supplies
* SRC general we have got now 386.69.
* For Activities budget we have 1,629.89 dollars.
* For Academic assistance budget line throughout January there was approval of a couple now this week there was some approvals of three, that line is 2,020.00 dollars.
* For Emergency bursaries 12,300.00
* For Help desk 46.64
* For Club and societies funding 3,866.74
  1. **Sex and accessibility week – VP Student Life**
* Sex week will be from February 12-16 the idea of sex week is to promote healthy sex and healthy relationships.
* Start with Canadian campus sexual assault student advocates they are organizing an event that they do every year, that’s going to be held at the student union building, happening on the 13th .
* Also, with the mental health office we will be hosting communication styles with cupid. An event that discusses communication styles and healthy relationships and all that.
* On valentine’s day we will have a valentine’s day event, people can build their own valentine’s day gift with chocolates we will be adding a condom and other sex small items to promote healthy sex.
* After that on the 15th we will be hosting a sex positive and accessible movie night. During the day we will have STI screening clinic on the 15th.
* On the 16th sex relationships and gender positive art event. We will have dry clay and painting and canvases. Students can express sex, relationships, and gender in art.
* Still having conversations on organizing a sex conversation event from the student health center trying to find nurses to come from the student health center we also trying to find other partners to be part of the conversation. We were thinking of a name we were thinking Sex and Sandwiches because we want to have food, but we are just trying to find a name. If anyone has an idea please let me know!
* For accessibility week we don’t have a date yet since it is very new. We have three main ideas. We are going to be doing a forum with three community partners, autism connection and Neil Squire is the company that purchases and stuff all the technology that that is used to be accessible. Have a form with them on how we can make campus more accessible in every way. How can I be a more accessible advocate, just by taking things into conversation.
* Accessible movie night, close captions, snacks, fidget toys, wellness room, noise cancelling headphones.
* Also planning with Emily of doing a social media campaign with all this information. How as a human can I make campus more accessible?
* Make your on-fidget toy event. That they can keep and take to class.

**VP Education:** Sex and Sandwiches is a great idea and whoever came up with it is a great idea.

**VP Student Life:** If you have any ideas reach out to me.

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**
   1. **STUSU Elections – President**

* STUSU elections will be announced next week if you want to run for any executive positions or back into your rep position.
  1. **Pizza and Policy – President**
* On February 5th from 12-1pm in the OC Lounge
  1. **Online Meetings - Chair**
* March 1st and 15th meetings may have to be online due to some travelling for some extra curriculars. March 1st and March 15th will be online meetings.

1. **Adjournment.**

**[12.1.] BIRT** the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 3:40pm.

**Moved by:** VP Admin

**Seconded by:** VP student Life.

**Motion** CARRIES

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on Monday February 5th at 11:17am

**Alyssa Ivany**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council