**5th Meeting of the 49th SRC**

**Date: Oct 21st, 2022**

**Location: In-Person**

1. **Call to Order**

Ahmik Burneo, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on Oct 21st, at 4:01pm.

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 | Alex Nguyen |  |  |  |
| Vice President Administration | Minahil Fatima |  |  |  |
| Vice President Education | Julia Evans |  |  |  |
| Vice President Student Life | Anahi Alvarez |  |  |  |
| Indigenous Representative | Stevie DeMerchant |  |  |  |
| International Student Representative | Khanh Hoang |  |  |  |
| At Large Representatives (2) | Lauren Hayes  Chloe York |  |  |  |
| Off campus Representatives | - |  |  |  |
| Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative | - |  |  |  |
| First Year Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Harrington Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Vanier Representative | Jakob Didychuk |  |  |  |
| Holy Cross Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Grad Class President | Madison LeBlanc |  |  |  |

Quorum has been met with 8/9.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] BIRT** the Board approve the minutes of the 4th Meeting of the SRC as presented.

**Moved by:** VP Admin

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Review of Agenda**

**[5.1] BIRT** the Board adopt the agenda as presented 10.3 Gerontology Society

**Moved by:** VP Admin

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Unfinished Business.**
   1. Approval the constitution of the Student United Way – Minahil (VP administration)

**VP Admin:** Under article 5, we discussed the possibility of inclosing both UNB and St. Thomas students within this article. I will be contacting United Way about this particular article. Additionally, under article 11, there is one point missing that is not following the code of conduct of the St. Thomas Student Union. After these changes are made by the Student United Way, we will be bringing this item back for approval.

1. **Executive Reports.**

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

**7.1. President report - Alex Nguyen**

**Meetings**

**SEC Weekly meeting**

* The Executives had our weekly meeting to present reports and progress update.

**NBSA Governance Committee**

* I attended our Governance Committee meeting to go over the final draft of a policy we're working on as mentioned before in my previous update.

**NBSA Executive bi-weekly meeting**

* I had my bi-weekly check in with the Chair and Executive Director of the NBSA to go over our preparation for the upcoming advocacy week.

**Monthly meeting w/ Dr. Fenwick**

* Julia and I attended our bi-monthly meeting w/ Dr. Fenwick and Karen Preston to give them updates on STUSU and advocacy works.

**NBSA Board Meeting**

* Julia and I attended our Board meeting to plan Advocacy Week.

**Meeting w/ Students Nova Scotia – More Than Tuition**

* Julia and I attended a meeting with Student Nova Scotia representatives and form a formal Working Committee to oversee the campaign as it is now Maritime-wide.
* Julia is the co-chair of the committee and I'm STUSU representative.

**Post-Secondary Relations Committee**

* I attended the Post-Secondary Relations Committee as STUSU representative/ student representative.
* The meeting concerns with various discussion topics including the organization of the Welcome Back BBQ and Dumper program.

**Project/ Initiatives**

**More Than Tuition campaign**

* Julia and I decided on the launch date for the report which will be Oct 24th.
* I also will be in talking with Rei to work on some of the graphics for the launch.

**Miscellaneous**

**Office hours @JDH**

* I had my weekly office hours at JDH Help Desk.

**Senate Committees**

* I had an informal talk with Dr. Fenwick on recruiting students for Senate Committees. There is one committee that really need student representation is the Senate Committee on Academic Grievances.

**Indigenous Student Representative:** What was the name of this committee?

**President:** The Senate Committee on Academic Grievances.

**VP Education:** I want to emphasize that this committee that it is on a needs basis, and it is the highest level of academic grievance. So, the cases that come forward have previously be deliberated and discussed, meaning that more minor cases have already been dealt with at other levels. Additionally, Dr. Fenwick would prefer that the student be in their third or fourth year. Third would be preferable so that the student could remain on that committee for two years.

**7.2. Vice President Administration report - Minahil Fatima**

**Meetings**

* Office Hour JDH
* Weekly SEC Meeting

**Projects and Initiatives**

Campus Trust

* A few students reached out to me regarding opt-out concerns, and I got in touch with Crystal Baker, and we sorted that out.
* I had my CT Governance Committee Meeting on Wednesday

Clubs and Societies

* On Sunday, I had executive training for the clubs and societies. We had a terrific turnout!
* Some clubs and societies reached out to me after for some questions, so my Sunday was mostly spent doing things for clubs and organizations.
* I also received a funding application, which we will review later this meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

* Sent an email to Tina regarding the funding application we approved at the last meeting.
* A few students contacted me regarding academic assistance, so I worked on coordinating that.
* I also spent last weekend updating our website.

**President:** To clarify, we do not offer scholarships for students. Instead, they are called emergency student bursaries.

**7.3. Vice President Education report - Julia Evans**

**Meetings**

**NBSA: Affordability and Health Wellness & Sustainability Meetings:**

* We are in the home stretch for Advocacy Week. So, I have been meeting with Affordability and Health, Wellness & Sustainability committee members to finalize policies. I finished an exciting mental health policy today, and I cannot wait to have all the policies ready for the government next month.

**National Advocacy Committee (CASA):**

* I sit on the National Advocacy Committee for CASA. Today, we were updated on the federal advocacy plan for advocacy week, which gave us more direction for a national advocacy campaign. We started brainstorming a plan for a nationwide advocacy campaign, so stay tuned! We narrowed down our ideas to issues surrounding affordability and modernizing student financial aid.

**Meeting with Karen Preston and Dr. Fenwick:**

* Alex and I meet with Karen Preston and Dr. Fenwick monthly to update them on current student concerns and our advocacy efforts. They also update us on what students should know from the administration to students.

**NBSA Advocacy Meeting:**

* I attended an NBSA Board Meeting explicitly devoted to planning for advocacy week.

**Senate Meeting:**

* On Thursday, I attended the Senate Meeting, where I presented the student senator report, including advocacy, event, and general updates.

**SEC Meeting:**

* We had our weekly executive meeting.

**Projects and Initiatives**

**'More Than Tuition' Advocacy Campaign:**

* We have finalized drafting the "More than Tuition" Phase 1 report. Thanks to our Director of Communications Rey and his artistic additions, we are ready for our next step of the campaign to plan an in-person advocacy demonstration and collaboration at the provincial level. Hence, students feel immersed in the campaign at STU and beyond.
* (This campaign name and mission garnered attention across the Maritimes, and we are now working with our provincial partner, the NBSA, Students Nova Scotia, and UPEI on a Maritime Wide More than tuition campaign. All participating institutions will be conducting this campaign the first week of November, and we will have our in-person Wall of Costs in JDH to demonstrate "tuition PLUS" and showcase all of the student expenses and the discrepancies between costs and available aid. This will amplify affordability concerns to the government and demonstrate the need for modernizing financial aid to reflect the actual cost of education in 2022.)

**Internal Advocacy and Sustainability Meetings:**

* Both meetings are scheduled for next week.

**Recruit for Advocacy Week:**

* Encourage and promote volunteers for Advocacy Week: November 14th-18th

**Miscellaneous**

**Office Hour:**

* I will be having my Office Hours every Tuesday from 1-2 pm in the JDH Help Desk. Come visit!

**At Large Representative:** When is the latest date we can volunteer for advocacy week?

**President:** Whenever works; we did not formally agree on a date, so feel free to contact me or the VP Education if interested.

**7.4. Vice President Student Life report - Anahi Alvarez**

**Meetings**

**Corry and Britanny**

* I had a meeting with the residence life supervisor and the STU Mental Health Coordinator to talk about mental health awareness on campus and future collaborations with them
* We talked about different ideas to make mental health more present on campus.

**Help desk Manager**

* I met with Ana the HD Manager, to check with her and see how things are going.
* We are looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in volunteering, please reach out.

**Meeting with Alex to talk about SRC retreat**

* Alex and I met to talk about the SRC retreat and the schedule for the event that is happening Nov 7th

**Meeting with a student**

* I met with a STU student to discuss accessibility resources and how I can support them.

**SEC meeting**

* We had our executive meeting on Wednesday, and I gave all the executives an update on my week

**Activities and Events Committee**

* The activities coordinator and I had a meeting with the activities and events committee to talk about future October events (Trick or Eat) and to continue planning the Winter Formal)

**Projects and Initiatives**

* Continue contacting different mental health organizations around Fredericton to see how we can work together and promote mental health on campus.

**Miscellaneous**

* **I** had my office hours at the Help Desk from 3:00-4:00 pm (on Thursday)

**President:** Volunteering at the help desk is very low commitment and lowkey, and we can advertise it as "Representative Hours."

**Mina:** In the last meeting, we talked about bringing back "A Day in Life," and help-desk commitments would be an excellent way to put that on social media for other students to see what STUSU members do in their roles.

**At-Large Representative:** Who would we contact for that?

**VP Student Life:** You can feel free to contact me, and I can put you in contact with the Help-Desk Coordinator.

1. **Employee Updates.**

No employee report available.

1. **Representative Reports.** 
   1. **Indigenous Student Representative Report**

* This week was relatively quiet, as I only attended two meetings. On Oct 19th, I met with NIYAC to discuss the advocacy week, which will be happening at the end of November. We discussed reviewing policies before the beginning of next month. This morning, I also attended the Student Reconciliation committee meeting. We talked about the Indigenous bake sale, which will be happening on Oct 27th from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. We will also rent the Great Hall on Nov 23rd from 8:00-3:00 for the art exhibit.

**Indigenous Student Representative:** I was also wondering if I would be able to borrow a cash box for the Indigenous Student bake sale.

**VP Student Life:** The Help Desk has a cash box that would be available. Once you're done, you can return it to the help desk.

**President:** I want to encourage everyone to attend the Wabanaki lunches on Wednesdays from 12:00 until the food runs out.

**VP Education:** So everyone is aware, advocacy week will be happening on November 21st-25th at the federal level.

* 1. **International Student Representative report**
* Not a report, but there is currently an issue with a student who has not yet received their welcome week kit and has been asking for a few weeks.

**President:** Please feel free to send this person my contact information, so I can ensure they receive their welcome week kit.

* 1. **At-Large Representative report**
* This week, we were in contact with the VP Education. We are excited to get started with the Sustainability and Environmental Awareness Committee

**9.4. Grad-Class Representative Report**

* I started getting the word out about our Halloween grad class photo and started inquiring about getting some price quotas for grad merchandise and clothes.

1. **New Business.** 
   1. **Reviewing the More Than Tuition Report – Julia (VP Education)**
   * Soon, we will be posting this on social media, alongside graphics. Shortly after we will be posting our collaboration with other universities. In this report, it will have the mission of St. Thomas University Student Union, the main objectives, and mission statements of the report. It will delve into more detail about the campaign, such as student preferred communication and how students would prefer to be contacted. Data summary from the survey will increase knowledge and awareness. As well, how to increase student engagement going forward after this report. Based on the results of this survey, students have three predominate concerns: Tuition Cost, Cost of Living, Mental Health Awareness.
   * What's Next Component: We will Presenting the survey results, and advocacy campaign on a greater scale. It will involve having students to see advocacy in action, and how it works. As well, I courage everyone in STUSU to read this report. The better that representatives understand, the more we can advocate for the students we represent. I would be happy to answer any questions about the findings of this report, and feel free to email me if anyone has any concerns.
   1. **Student Services Policy Amendment – Alex (President)**

**[10.2.1.] BIRT** the Board approved the Student Services Policy amendment to remove Part VIII. Theatre as presented.

**Moved by:** President

**Seconded by:** VP Admin

**Motion:** Carries

10.3. Gerontology society application for $20.70 for their monthly meeting – Mina (VP Admin)

* + Recently, I have received a request from the gerontology society for funds for the amount of $20.70. Seeing as this request is so small, I see no reason as to why we would deny this request.

**President:** What will these funds be used for?

**VP Admin:** These funds will be for the snacks for their monthly meeting.

**10.3.**  Approve the Gerontology Society funding application.

**[10.3.] BIRT** Motion to approve the funding application for the Gerontology Society for the amount of $20.30

**Moved by:** VP Admin

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**

**President:** The reception for tomorrow's gala at the Delta will start at 6. We should meet for 5:30 to prepare beforehand.

**Indigenous Student Representative:** I will be posting the sign-up sheet for the bake sale

**VP Student Life**: If you have any ideas for the STU swag, please let me know. "Trick or Eat" and the Help-Desk.

**Indigenous Student Representative**: Can we get patches?

**At Large Representative:** A full-zip up sweater would be great.

**President:** Those are both things that we can look into. Also, please check online at the NBSA Advocacy week volunteering tab. If you have any questions about volunteering commitments, please let me know. I have sent out invitations. More details about the retreat will come out next week.

**VP Education:** Please share as much on social media about advocacy week as possible. I encourage any student advocates to get involved. There will be a variety of stakeholders from all different kinds of groups, such as the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labour. I hope to see everyone sign up.

**At-Large Representative**: You mentioned a training aspect of this advocacy week? How would training take place?

**President:** All volunteers will be trained at once at the beginning of advocacy week.

**VP Admin:** If anyone would like to join the finance committee, please email me.

**Indigenous Student Representative:** I will also be posting on the Facebook page about volunteers for the bake sale, so if anyone is interested in volunteering, please let me know.

1. **Adjournment.**

**[12.1.] BIRT** the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 4:50pm.

**Moved by:** VP Admin

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on Oct 27th, 2022.

**Grace Steeves**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council