**6th Meeting of the 50th SRC**

**Date: Friday, October 27th 2023**

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

1. **Call to Order**

Elizabeth Namit, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on October 27th, at 3:36pm.

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  Taylor Armstrong |  |  |  |
| Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative | Emmanuelle Jackson |  |  |  |
| First Year Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Harrington Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Vanier Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Holy Cross Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | Colby Beers |  |  |  |
| Grad Class President | - |  |  |  |

Quorum has 8/11 met.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] BIRT** the Board approve the minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 50th SRC as presented.

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion**: CARRIES

1. **Review of Agenda**

**[5.1] VP Administration:** I would like to add under agenda item 10.2 Residence House Committees

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** President

**Motion** CARRIES

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

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** VP student Life

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Unfinished Business.**

No unfinished business.

1. **Executive Reports.**

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

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

**Meetings:**

* Preparation Meeting for New Brunswick Student Alliance Advocacy Week: During this meeting, students came together to have one last chance to practice as a group before we kicked off the advocacy week.
* Meeting with the Mayor’s Office: The Deputy Mayor and council met with the NBSA to speak about issues such as mental health, EDI, affordability, and university funding that effect many of their constituents.
* Meeting with Dr. Fenwick & Karen Preston: During this meeting the STUSU provided an update of what they’ve been up to lately leading to a conversation of some of our upcoming events.
* Meeting with MP Atwin: This meeting was associated with the NBSA advocacy week, so we presented the advocacy policy to MP Atwin and had some informing conversation regarding affordability and mental health. She also provided us an update on some of the topics she is advocating on in the fall economic statement.
* Senate Meeting: During the monthly senate meeting, we were provided updates from the senate committees and voted in our student senators.
* National Indigenous Advocacy Committee Touch Base: During this touch-base, the co-chairs discussed the upcoming advocacy week and policies with the executive director.
* Meeting with National Indigenous Advocacy Committee: During this meeting the group completed media training, leading into a conversation about advocacy week. We were able to present a tentative schedule and present the policies.
* Student Executive Council Meetings: During this meeting, the exec team provided updates and discussed upcoming events and activities.

**Miscellaneous**

* Sign the Data Sharing Agreement: This agreement was signed to provide the CRO all the names for the voting during the fall by-election.
* Office Hour at Help Desk: during this time I have students come and ask questions about how to utilize their services, where to find specific things on campus or to add something to the lost & found.
* Communication with Elections NB: Elections NB wants to have a poll on campus if an election is called. We discussed that along with how many students would be needed to ensure the polls can be run.
* NB Legislative Assembly: STUSU President and VPED attended the legislative assembly to hear the opposition give thanks to the NBSA for their work during advocacy week.
  1. **Vice President Administration report – Ahmik Burneo**

**Last week**

* I hold my regular office hours at the Help Desk
* The board of trustees of Campus Trust met to go over some governing documents of Campus Trust and we are currently organizing our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for January, which will be held remotely.
* I received some emails from students who have had issues accessing their student benefits and registering their dependents on their accounts.
* French society reached out to confirm that they will be active this year.
* I met with Erin Feicht to coordinate the elections of Global Brigades after the Governance Committee’s decision to call out for elections as a resolution of the warning notice issued earlier in the semester.
* Stevie and I have kept in touch with the CRO for the effective organization of the fall election.
* The Executive team had a meeting with Dr. Fenwick and Karen Preston to discuss the plans for the academic year and raise any concerns.
* I had our weekly executive meeting with the team.

**This week**

* I hold my regular office hours at the Help Desk
* I met with Residence Supervisor Jeremy to coordinate the procedures of the house committee representatives. Vanier will continue having their elections, but due to the lack of engagement from students, they have decided that Harrington and Holy Cross House would now have a council, where students will be self-appointed.
* Met with the governance committee this week – we received a new application for ratification of a new club.
* Met with the finance committee.
* I had our weekly executive meeting with the team.
  1. **Vice President Education report – Emily Boucher (Presented by Ahmik Burneo)**
* Last week was NBSA’s Advocacy Week. This action-packed week has been both hectic and rewarding. We have met with various MPs, MLAs, governmental officials and more to discuss the pillars and recommendations we have for the government in our advocacy document. In preparation, I had helped the executive director design a handbook for the volunteers and wrote a press release regarding the release of our advocacy document and the commencement of our lobbying meetings.
* I attended a CASA Governance and Internal Review committee meeting this week to discuss the election process and how to improve it.
* I attended senate on Thursday.
* Had my office hours at the help desk on Wednesday
* Attended the legislative assembly Thursday and Friday morning where the NBSA was recognized by the floor for our work this week during advo week.
* Have been working on a mini advocacy campaign for Trick n Eat, currently finished the graphic for it and currently working on a survey to get students opinion on their experience with food insecurity.
* Attending an Interview on friday with the AQ regarding the NBSA’s Advocacy Week and the work we did.

.

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

* We received 8 emergency bursaries applications
* Help desk updates and changes on the opperational plan.
* Meeting with STU communications for  International Week and Events
* Meeting with Carrie and International Rep for  International Week
* Winter Warm up happened and it was a success.
* Activities Committee meeting
* Mental Health Committee emails
* Emily and I have been working on a food Insecurity Campaign
* Re-schedule STU Got Talent because of booking problems.
* Planned event to replace it  (Paint and Sip)
* Answered students emails regarding emergency bursaries
* Meeting with Karen Preston and Kim Fenwick.
* Executive team  weekly meeting
* Helpdesk office hours

1. **Employee Updates**

No employee report available.

1. **Representative Reports.** 
   1. **Off campus report**

* I sent out an email to all societies asking them to join the off-campus Facebook page for ease of communication and to try to increase participation of the off-campus community in STU events.
* The off-campus reps were contacted about aiding in an Enactus project called Spark, particularly with a workshop which focuses on affordable grocery shopping. I gave some input about highlighting STUSU resources and community resources.
* On Wednesday, October 25, I attended a meeting with Enactus to discuss the Spark project. -I circulated a simple Microsoft form to encourage Off-Campus students to interact with their Representatives and voice their questions and concerns.

**VP Student Life:** I would recommend that you talk to Carla, the director of communications so she can put the link on the STUSU website and maybe she can do a post about it, so all students that follow STUSU can go through there. We could also talk to the university about putting the link to the Facebook page in the student notices.

* 1. **At large rep report**
* I had a meeting with the advisory committee on a remote learning, I just wanted to put it out there if anyone has a remote learning concern or any ideas, even about the students you represent. Reach out to me and I will make sure that gets communicated.
  1. **Social Rep report**
* Social inclusion rep:
* Wanted to touch base on what I was working on for this term and a glance for
* My chosen project was to focus on one area of activism each semester
* Semester 1 🡪 Mental Health
* Semester 2 🡪 Diversity and Inclusion
* I was thinking of pairing up with the mental health committee / perhaps to get guidance on potential leads for what may be possible here on campus.
* I could bring up ideas of reducing stigma, building resilience, promotion of self-care
* Maybe we could even begin working on specific activities per year of study
* 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year, 4th year
* Perhaps we can start some type of document that people can fill out, and what they would like to see more of throughout the term? But my concern was if this would be effective enough to move forward for the new few months.
* Mentorship and Support programs: create mentorship or peer support programs that pair students from underrepresented groups with mentors or allies who can provide guidance, resources, and a sense of belonging
* As for diversity and inclusion, I could focus on two of the following;
* **Accessibility in Diversity initiatives**: ensure that all diversity and inclusion events, workshops and resources are accessible to students of all and with disabilities. So, accessible venues, but how about an approach that takes on the factor of captioning for videos and events?
* **Intersectional Diversity Celebrations**: organize events that not only celebrate various cultures and identities but also explore intersections.

1. **New Business.** 
   1. **Elections NB**

* I Had a conversation with elections NB about a potential election coming up. The discussion that we had is that they want to bring a poll to campus. Usually, we do a campaign prior to that get out to vote type of campaign. They were looking for two students to work the polls, these students would go through training, the afternoon of a Thursday or Friday, paid for that. Then they would work two days on the polls, paid for that as well. We are pretty much just in communication through email because an election hasn’t been called, there is a possibility but also not a possibility. They wanted me to see if anyone is interested, if that is something you would like to do if the election is called let me know.

**10.2 Residence House Committees**

* Each house has a representative, Harrington, Holy Cross and Vanier. However, the residence life office has made some changes on their procedure of electing the house committees, with holy cross and Harrington, Vanier has stayed the same. The old style they used they elected and then the vice president external assumed the representation of the house committee here at STUSU.
* However, what the resident life office has seen is a decrease in the engagement of the students in the elections of the house committees with Harrington and Holy cross. In the elections for this year that happened in spring Harrington only elected 2/8 and Holy Cross elected 0.
* Instead of having elections they are having a house council where students will self-appoint themselves to the council. We had a conversation with the residence supervisor because based on the bylaws it says that a rep is elected, and that it goes through democratic procedures. The meeting was to see how we can best make it on our bylaws. We will have to make some amendments to our bylaws, maybe for the next SRC I can bring some changes so we can also extend some questions like what happens if there are more than 8 students engaged or you have 12 or 16 who will then be a part of the council. He said Well then, we will continue with elections and so then I explained that then it is not about changing completely how the house committees work, they will continue being elected, then if no one is interested then people can self-appoint themselves to be a part of the committee.
* Rather than changing completely our bylaws it is rather adding a subsection that indicates that where there isn’t a lot of engagement then students will be self-appointed. I will be working on the wording. We let them know that it is their own decision on how the committees work for each house that we appreciate having this conversation and including them in our bylaws. Next SRC we may propose some amendments bylaws.

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**

**11.1** **President: Special Merit Awards Committee**

* I got an email last week from Dr. Fenwick she is asking to have a student representative on the special merit awards committee. This committee meets one time the year it commonly takes place end of March and of April, if that’s something that sounds appealing you can you reach out. Review some files pick who is getting the award. She is looking to get someone in two weeks so there is still a lot of time if you want to consider it.

**11.2 Next SRC**

* The next SRC will not be taking place next week, because some students will be going on the experimental learning trip, or next week because of reading week. The next SRC will be two weeks from now.

**11.3 The Global Connections Challenge**

* GCC is taking place November 15th, Global connections challenge STUSU and STUISA is doing to foster connection between Canadian students and international students.

1. **Adjournment.**

**[12.1.] BIRT** the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 4:04pm.

**Moved by:** VP student Life

**Seconded by:** President

**Motion:** CARRIES

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on Monday October 30th at 11:30am.

**Alyssa Ivany**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council