**4th Meeting of the 50th SRC**

**Date: Friday, October 6th 2023**

**Location: Online - Zoom**

1. **Call to Order**

Elizabeth Namit, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on October 6th  2023, at 3:32pm.

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 been met 10/11.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] BIRT** the Board approve the minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 50th SRC as presented.

**Moved by:** VP student Life

**Seconded by:** VP Administration

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Review of Agenda**

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

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** President

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Unfinished Business.**
   1. **Operational Policy 5 - Students Services Policy – VP Admin (Ahmik)**

I will share my screen to ensure everyone can read the academic assistant we plan to amend. I got your feedback, and if there are any other doubts or comments, we can still discuss it, review it and pass it on to the next SRC meeting. We addressed the suggestion of putting the thesis advisor here to make it sound more inclusive and open to all students. A professor needs to send a letter outlining the conference or event, the student will attend. Then, there was a question on how we define first-year students.

First-year students were to be exempted from all these sub-sections. The problem with having first-year students determined by completing two academic terms is what happens with part-time students. If they complete two academic year semesters (maybe two classes per semester) at the end, they will not have 30 credit hours. In their second year as part-time students, it would be challenging for them to have the credit hours we request. Rather than mentioning first-year students, we find that this subsection only applies to upper-year students and students who have not completed 30 Credit hours are exempted from subsection C. We discussed the amount of credit hours we requested for this policy. Initially, a discussion of prove that you have 50 credit hours before the event, then a suggestion of let's have 12 credit hours before the event, or since usually first-year students are encouraged to take as many classes from a different fields, then the suggestion was let's ask them to have nine credit hours completed in their first year, and three credit extra credit hours in the next year. We decided that we must specify that the applicant must provide evidence that they will complete at least 12 credit hours in the field of study of interest by the end of the semester that the application is submitted. As example, If I am going into my second year of university this fall and I am requesting funding from academic assistance to go to an event in a particular field of study and I have not completed my 12 credit hours, initially I have two classes to fill in my first year and then this semester I will be taking two extra classes this semester related to the field of study to fill the 12 credit hours, so I am eligible to request this funding, again if I am an upper year student and I think that is the best way to connect all of our feedback that we have received. I now just want to open the floor to any questions or suggestions.

**Chair:** Is there any discussion?

**President:** I just wanted to mention thank you for everyone who gave feedback completing this couldn’t of happened without your perspective and your willingness to help in this. We are hoping that this will help of executive team and SRC in the future to come.

**VP Administration:** Raises motion to approve this amendment to the operational policy 6 student services policy to include section 2 with sub section of A, B, C as presented.

**Moved by:** VP Administration

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion** CARRIES

1. **Executive Reports.**

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

* 1. **President report – Stevie DeMerchant**
* Senate committee on reconciliation
* Canadian Alliance of Student Associations MRO hiring interviews
* Emailing and clarifying questions for the CRO
* Student Executive Council Meeting
  1. **Vice President Administration report – Ahmik Burneo**
* Hold my weekly office hours at the Help Desk on Tuesday.
* I reached out to our General Manager to request new pamphlets about the Health and Dental plan that present the benefits at-a-glance and the steps to register. These are usually found at the help desk, but we have recently run out of those.
* Governance Committee – met this Thursday to discuss some topics:
* **St. Thomas University African Caribbean Students’ Community**is a new club that has requested recognition from the union, and after two weeks of evaluation, the committee has approved their recognized status.
* Weekly Executive meeting to discuss our planning of priorities.
* Student Benefits account: Some students reached out through email requesting help with their student benefits account.
  1. **Vice President Education report – Emily Boucher**

**Pizza and Policy with David**

* Reached out to all Political science professors inviting them to our upcoming pizza and policy event
* Been in the process of finishing up the planning for pizza and policy event
* Reached out to a first-year political science professor to schedule time for MLA David to come into the class in November to chat with the students and answer any questions they may have.

**NBSA Advocacy Week**

* I have been working on the advocacy document for NBSA Advo week with Sydona such as writing up the letter from the chair
* I have been reaching out to stakeholders to schedule meetings during advocacy week
* I chaired the first advocacy committee meeting. We got to know everyone and lay out our plans for the year
* I have been working on the funding proposals for the NBSA to ask for grants
* I had a meeting with Sydona today to go over the advocacy week volunteer applications

**Student Executive Meeting**

* Had our weekly executive meeting
  1. **Vice President Student Life report – Isabella Baralt**
* I received and ordered 14 Community Food Smarts orders.
* I held my weekly Help desk office hours
* I had a Meeting with tina about Help Desk selling and operational plan
* I attended the first activities committee meeting.
* No emergencies bursaries application this week.

1. **Employee Updates.**
   1. **Director of Communications:**

* Hello everyone. I am just going to give an overview of what I have been working on in September. Since I started working as Director of Communications, I have been putting up a lot of posts up on our social media, student services, reminders, SRC meeting for students to know that we are meeting. I have also been helping Emily with pizza with MLA David Coon with promoting that.
* I have also been helping Stevie with the student senator posts, it is good to hear that there was a response from that.
* I have created a content calendar for me to share with the executive team, so we have been communicating pretty whenever they need me to promote anything, and I also have a long-term project that I am working on with Ahmik for the website updates and I have been going through that at my own pace.
  1. **Activities Coordinator – on behalf of VP Student Life:**
* Estefania is very sorry she couldn’t be with us today, but she sent me her updates. To start, Trick or eat our annual event will happen on Tuesday October 31st from 6-8.
* She has talked to Claire to collaborate with the food bank to share the event and she would also share the event through her mailing list. She would have the foodbank unlocked for us to share the event and we will do a campaign with students and food insecurity, that will be happening a week prior we are going to use the advocacy campaign to promote the event to help the students understand food insecurity and supporting students on that.
* And our big event will be STU Got Talent that will be happening on Tuesday November 2nd from 6-8pm, promotion is going to come out early next week, and we are parenting with Residence Life, we are aiming for this to be our big event and get a lot of student participation, everyone to showcase their talent. We are starting to promote a month prior to get students to coordinate themselves and organize what they want to showcase, there is going to be an iPad for a prize, which will also be promoted, so we are doing big prizes, we are hoping for a lot of student engagement. Estefania asked if I could ask Stevie to be a judge and she will reach out to Stevie with the information, we also asked Dr. Farooqi if he could come, also Tanya Breen she does musical theater and then we will have a student representative.
* We had our first community activities committee meeting yesterday, we have a lot of students engaged which will be awesome.
* Estefania says this is for everyone, we usually hold SRC Retreat everyone here is invited, and we will all hangout, it is usually a weekend. It used to be during reading week, but we know that a lot of people are going to Peru which is super exciting, so we would have to find the right day to do it, where hopefully everyone is available. Usually it is Saturday, she will send a doodle poll to everyone, but we are aiming for the weekend before reading week. I am just putting this in everyone’s head, it is usually a dinner, but we want to do something fun.
* To conclude winter formal is going to be December 7th 8-11 at the delta hotel. She wanted me to ask everyone’s thoughts on the jazz band or if anyone would like to say what they want to see at the winter formal.

**Director of Communications:** Point of privilege, I need to leave because I have another commitment, (left at 3:55pm)

**At Large Rep:** I was just going to say about the jazz band, a lot of people liked the DJ. The jazz band was nice but there were compliments that it would have been nice to have more fun music, it could be a thing where we split the time.

**VP Student Life:** That is something we are working on, last year we did one hour and one-hour last year and we think that was most successful, but we want to hear everyone’s thoughts on what they want to see at the event.

1. **Representative Reports.** 
   1. **International student report:**

* We finally figured out the name for event and when it will take place, Carrie, the Canadian liaison for STUISA we all voted for Global connections challenge, it will take place during international education week, specifically Wednesday November 15th from 4-5pm. For that event we are looking for volunteers that will act as referrers, so they can stamp people’s passports throughout the event.
* I am working with Carrie, on the post with communications and we are trying to figure out what type of prizes we could give out for student engagement. But we have the other parts set now we are just working on the logistics.
  1. **Indigenous Rep report:**
* The Reconciliation committee elections are over we were able to fill up almost all the spots, besides first year rep, we don’t have many first or second years so that is something we have to try to reconcile with.
* Most of the details for the Indigenous craft fair for the first Friday of November, have been put into place.
* Everything is set for the callout to begin; I wish to meet with my executives before it is set in stone.

1. **New Business.**

No new business available.

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**
   1. **Question about STUSU Committee**

**At Large Rep:** I have a question about a STUSU Committee if it is happening or the status of it. I had a few students interested in the environmental senate, I told them that this committee normally happens and that I want to give them more information on it but I didn’t have it so I would get more information for it.

**VP Education:** When I was setting up the advocacy committee, I was going to set up the sustainability committee, the only people that I had that were interested was one person from the club and societies fair and a few people in the committee that haven’t been elected yet, I was just waiting to get more people involved in it so their wouldn’t be just two people in it, but I am so excited that there are people that are interested to get involved in it.

* 1. **Announcement for Global Connections Challenge Event**

**International Rep:** Regarding the event, if anyone would like to be a refer or a stamper, just let me know and send me an email.

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 9th at 1:43pm

**Alyssa Ivany**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council