



2nd Meeting of the 50th SRC

Date: Friday, September 22nd 2023

Location: Online (Zoom)

1. Call to Order

Elizabeth Namit, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on September 22nd, 2023, at 3:42pm.

2. 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.

3. 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 8/11.

4. Review of the Minutes.

[4.1] VP Administration: I would like to raise three motions to make some amendments to the minutes, I will go individually. First amendment: to amend the minutes of the 1st meeting of the 50th SRC to include in agenda item 10.1 that “Section 1. Gives room for confusion, and if the conference is academic or not. The lack of clarity gives room for being bias and for conflict of interests. I want to hear your comments and the next SRC we can continue with the discussion.”

The reason why this motion is being raised, is that the wording has been cut and the paragraph did not continue with what has been said.

Chair: What would specifically be amended in the minutes?

VP Administration: To include the lack of clarity, because it only says gives room for being biased, but it does not explain for what gives room for being bias, therefore leads to lack of clarity.

Moved by: VP Admin

Seconded by: VP Student Life

Motion: CARRIES

[4.2] VP Administration: Second amendment: A motion to amend the minutes of the 1st meeting of the 50th SRC to delete in agenda item 10.1 “Government says that you cannot fund it and they come to the student union to receive funding,” and “Student able to present research.”

Moved by: VP Admin

Seconded by: VP Student Life

Motion: CARRIES

[4.3] VP Administration: Third amendment: Motion to amend the minutes of the 1st meeting of the 50th SRC to include in agenda item 10.1 under subsection c “Sub subsection i: This subsection only applies for upper year students. First year students are exempted from subsection (c).”

Moved by: VP Admin

Seconded by: VP Student life

Motion: CARRIES



[4.4.] BIRT the Board approve the minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 50th SRC as amended.

Moved by: VP Student life

Seconded by: President

Motion: CARRIES

5. Review of Agenda

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

Moved by: VP Admin

Seconded by: President

Motion: CARRIES

6. Unfinished Business.

6.1. Operational Policy 5 - Students Services Policy – VP Admin (Ahmik

VP ADMIN:

Re introduce discussion:

Last SRC meeting, we introduced our plan to make some changes and amendments to our operational policy number 5, regarding our student services policy. Specifically for academic assistance. Per in our policy regarding academic assistance only presents section one, that states the student union shall endeavor to aid and assist and encourage members of the union to educational experience by participating in academic field trips, conferences and research administered by the finance committee. The issue is that with the lack of clarity in this section is that it gives room for the executive team being bias or we do not have the where to determine whether the conference was, or academic field has academic purposes or any other purposes. During the summer our executive team came up with plans, as discussed in the last meeting of the SRC. It is pretty much adding a new section, one of the comments that you guys suggested is that instead of mentioning thesis supervisor to include professor to make it more inclusive rather than this is maybe just for honours students. Instead of requiring 15 Credit hours in the field of study, reduce it to 12 credit hours and make some definitions of what we mean as first year students, for first year students could be exempted in this case below of credit hours. We will need to come up with a definition of what are first years and what are upper years. To come up with what happens if the conference is related to something that the student is interested in pursuing after graduation but their major(s) or field of study in their undergrad is not necessarily related to that. The reason that this topic was tabled was to give you guys more time to think about this and to bring more suggestions. We do not need to come up with a motion for this at this SRC, this is another opportunity to discuss and to hear your comments and ideas and then next SRC we might begin with introducing a motion.

Chair: is there any discussion from the rest?



The Students' Representative Council
Le Conseil Représentatif des Étudiants
Students' Union of St. Thomas University, Inc.

VP Administration: I just wanted to open a question to everyone, do you think that based on these suggestions and feedback if we introduce some changes to this subsection, for next SRC, will we be good to review? Or are there any other suggestions that you guys think we should consider or make some changes to this subsection?

Off Campus Rep Craib: I know I was the one who mentioned the credit hour issue last week, I am just thinking entering your second year traditionally defined by having completed 30 credit hours already, say you are in your first semester in political science stream, but you do not do a ton of political science in your first year you would only have nine credit hours maximum typically. I would almost argue that we should move it to nine credit hours instead of 12. If you have 9 hours already you most likely are showing a minor in that department.

VP Student Life: This policy, I wonder if we take into consideration those students that are currently enrolled, let's say you take nine credit hours in your first year and then your second year first semester you have two classes on that field, then you would get to the 12 credit hours in the deadline. I wonder if we take this into consideration if it would allow for it to be more flexible. For example, I know that there are other courses such as fine arts that count as one credit hour, but if we can take into consideration of the ones that you are currently enrolled, that complement the trip you are taking, I think it could work and that it would be fair. For example, trip in New York, if you took two classes in your first year then enrolled in a class that counts towards the trip, then you have a little more background.

President: I just want to come back to the definition of a first year if we should be defining it by credit hours or enrolment. What would you guys see fit for the definition of a first year. Should we take it from the definition of the university? I just want to see if anyone had any suggestions?

VP Administration: Perhaps instead of first year being in terms of credit hours, or that the time that someone has started. It should be the number of semesters that a student has gotten, for example: first year student that is only in their first or second semester or only started in the winter. The winter semester would be their first semester and the fall semester would be their second semester of their first year.

VP Student Life: I think the idea that Ahmik just brought up it would be the best definition for us to go with. Also, for the credit hours situation, to ensure that they have had the opportunity to take classes in the field of study for a period of an academic year. It is a little more accessible because people that cannot take more than three classes, having that space a bit longer I think it is fair.



VP Administration: If there isn't any other discussion, I will be working to make the right changes to this policy then to present again at the next SRC. If you come with any other feedback during these days just send me an email and I will take it into consideration.

7. Executive Reports.

Executives provided verbal report followed by a written one.

7.1. President report – Stevie DeMerchant

Hi everyone, thank you for joining us today, happy Friday!

- Touch Base with National Indigenous Advocacy Committee to discuss our upcoming meeting with Tri-Agency Council along with committee updates.
- Meeting with Tri-Agency Council to discuss funding Indigenous graduate studies and revising policy to include traditional ways of knowing as viable means of study.
- Senate Committee on Reconciliation
- Interview with CBC regarding the Human Rights Award.
- Preparation meeting for Sisters of Charity, a partner with STU that wants to fund an outdoor ceremony space on campus!
- Meeting with Minister Dunn & NBSA to introduce ourselves to the new minister along with discuss some concerns on our campuses!
- Emily and I began preparing a new policy for NBSA advocacy week.
- Meeting with Indigenous Representative to discuss some tips and tricks for the year and answer some questions regarding the position.
- St. Thomas Student Executive Council meeting
- Meeting on Monday with a student to discuss services STUSU can provide to them.

Indigenous Rep: Point of privilege I have to leave for 10-15 minutes.

Chair: Approved

Indigenous Rep was gone from 4:07-4:13

7.2. Vice President Administration report – Ahmik Burneo

- We had our regular executive team meeting.
- On Thursday I chaired the first Governance Committee meeting.
- On Thursday I chaired the first Finance Committee meeting – we approved a funding application for the Mental Health Society for \$90 for an event taking place next week - De-Stress Fest September 29, 3:00 – 5:00 PM, Edmund Casey Hall G12
- I held my weekly office hours at the Help Desk
- I receive some emails regarding the Health and Dental Plan – issues accessing their accounts as a result of website updates.



- Clubs and Societies requesting STU emails with One Drive, rather than only Shared emails.

7.3. Vice President Education report – Emily Boucher (Presented by Stevie)

- Attended a biweekly NBSA executive meeting, where I currently serve as the chair of the NBSA.
- The NBSA equally held a fall board meeting where the committee's policies were presented and voted upon.
- I attended a meeting for CASA's Governance and Internal Review Committee
- The NBSA met with the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, Arlene Dunn to introduce ourselves and discuss some of the pressing concerns on our campus.
- The NBSA's Executive Director, the STUSU president, Stevie, and I have been meeting through the week. We are currently working on an international student policy to present at the NBSA's emergency board meeting next week.
- I reached out to the international student representative to discuss our new international student policy, looking to schedule a meeting and trying to find a time that works for everyone to meet this week.
- Met with Alexa to talk about the experiential learning committee and talking about student internship experience surveys
- Attended CASA's e-plenary on Friday on behalf of STUSU

7.4. Vice President Student Life report – Isabella Baralt

- Office Hours Help desk
- Finalized Help desk schedule.
- Fredericton State of the Schools Tour.
- BIPOC Students Meeting
- SEC meeting
- Community event plan; Sobeys cancelation for Sept 30th.

8. Employee Updates.

No employee report available.

9. Representative Reports.

9.1. Off Campus Rep Craib report

On September 15, 2023, I reached out to a previous admin about handing over control of the Off-Campus Facebook group to myself and Off Campus Rep Taylor Armstrong by assigning us admin roles on the page. This would be via our personal accounts. I gained access to the admin role of the group on the same date and added Off-Campus Rep Armstrong as an admin. On September 19, I made a welcome post to introduce the Off-Campus Reps, and to indicate how we wish the group to be



used moving forward, and to allow members to give us feedback on how they felt the group could best be used. We have also started to share upcoming events on the page and are looking to invite the official pages of the societies at STU to join the group. This will help with event promotion and off campus involvement in STU campus life.

9.2. International Student Rep report

This week I had a meeting with Carrie, the president of STUISA and I am planning to meet with the Canadian liaison. We are brainstorming ideas to create an event to connect more international students to Canadians. We believe that international students need an anchor Canadian to increase the chances of them staying and in the province. We are meeting with James Brown the Canadian liaison, to discuss of the increase Canadian involvement on campus. Meeting with Clara Santacruz, to discuss the experimental learning trips, so that we have a better understanding how the budget works and the Canadian Global Skills Opportunity funds these trips, and to possibly in the future have one international student attend these trips. Like Stevie mentioned, Emily reached out to me to schedule a meeting, with Stevie, her, and the executive director of the NBSA to discuss an international policy.

9.3. Indigenous Student Rep report

Brief update on the Reconciliation Committee the nomination period is this week, and we do have many people who have nominated themselves for the roles. For the elections next week, hopefully every position will be filled.

There is another Indigenous movie that will be shown the day before, the screening we have shown for the committee. Bones of crows I believe, on a Wednesday. A date has been picked up for the second craft sale, will be November 3rd, the first Friday of November.

Elections soon for indigenous committee, the committee soon,

10. New Business.

No new business available.

11. Questions, Announcements & Notices

11.1 De Stress Fest :

VP Administration: Inviting everyone to the de stress fest, organized from the mental health society, next Friday September 29th. From 3-5 in ECH room G12.

11.2 Health and Dental Plan

VP Administration: Regarding the health and dental plan, the PBA'S group which is our administrator of the health and dental plan has made some updates on the website. They are no longer using one type of website, they are now using a draw bridge, the same process with the same link. The first step is to register is just



confirming that it is you, it just asked for your student ID and STU email and then all your information will be back in the system. If you see any students or friends, just let them know that there has been an update. The director of communications has made a post about it today.

11.2 VP Student Life:

Next Friday STUSU will be in the National Education Association of Disabled Students, we will be there to showcase our services to disabled students for their post's secondary education. Showing them how we can support them and what we do. If you want to come support us and be with us in the group, it will be from 12-4.

12. Adjournment.

[12.1.] BIRT the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 4:19pm.

Moved by: VP Admin

Seconded by:VP Student Life

Motion: CARRIES

Submission:

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on Sunday September 24th at 8:49pm

Alyssa Ivanny

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council