8th Meeting of the 48th SRC

4:00 pm, Sunday November 21, 2021

Via Zoom (Online)

**Attendance Record**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Name | Present | Regrets | Absent |
| President | Tyler MaGee | X |  |  |
| Vice President Administration | Alex Nguyen | X |  |  |
| Vice President Education | Sydona Chandon | X |  |  |
| Vice President Student Life | Victoria Young | X |  |  |
| Off-Campus Representative | Carol Alvarez | X |  |  |
| Off-Campus Representative | Gregory Robinson |  | X |  |
| Off-Campus Representative | Lindsey Graham | X |  |  |
| Harrington Hall Representative | Lauren Hayes |  | X |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | Manvi Walter |  |  | X |
| Indigenous Representative | Stevie DeMerchant | X |  |  |
| International Student Representative | Sony | X |  |  |
| Member at Large Representative | Julia Evans | X |  |  |
| Grad Class President | Tory Desroche | X |  |  |

**Staff Present:** Kryssonia Wedderburn (Chair), Minahil Fatima (Recording Secretary)

**AQ Representatives:** N/A

**Guests Present:** N/A

**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.

**Call to Order and Quorum Call**

Meeting was called to order by Kryssonia Wedderburn at 4:03 pm.

Quorum is met with 10 voting members present.

## **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was presented to council.

It was moved by Alex N to approve agenda.

Seconded by Tyler M.

The agenda was approved.

## **Approval of the Minutes from the 7th Meeting**

The minutes from last meeting were presented to council.

It was moved by Alex N. to approve minutes.

Seconded by Victoria Y.

The minutes were approved.

## **Executive Reports**

**3.1 President’s Report – Tyler MaGee**

Hi! So on Monday, I had a CASA EDI committee meeting. And in that meeting, we discussed the Equity Diversity and Inclusion SWOT analysis. So essentially, what it is, is we looked at the organization of CASA as a whole and highlighted what we saw as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats from an EDI perspective. And it was very positive, there were a lot of strengths and some obvious ways that we can improve. So, the way that we're going to be moving forward is kind of proceeding down the list of each of those items and working them through to present a document to CASA on how they can improve on Wednesday, I attended an Indigenous Film Festival subcommittee meeting. So, this is a subcommittee of the it's the indigenous reconciliation committee of the university. So, there are two reconciliation committees. This is the university counterpart the Senate one. So, there's a subcommittee that is looking at putting on an Indigenous Film Festival and the dates have been set for the end of February. I'm not sure what the exact date is because I wasn't the one who booked the Kinsella so I will get those dates and bring them back. But it's going to be open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous filmmakers on indigenous topics and people from post secondary institutions in New Brunswick as well as upper year high school students from New Brunswick will be able to enter. So that's pretty exciting. We're also going to be having a few established filmmakers that will be presenting films as well. So, this is pretty exciting. STU has the patents of it now. So, it's looking to be one of those initiatives that is continuous throughout the years, which is amazing. And then later on the 17th and I won't go too far into it because I know the other executives probably know that we had the international student panel. And that was held at the Ted Daigle. Hopefully, you all saw the Facebook Live videos, which are still up on our Facebook. Anyway. So, we did have two of our SRC members sat on the panel, and it was chaired by Sydona. So, it was a very lovely event. And again, I'll let them go into a little bit more details. Following that, I was late, this was Thursday, I was late to the university funding presentation, but from Pedal, which is the organization that allocates funds to universities, I was a little late getting to it because I had another meeting, an impromptu meeting with a student. But Sydona was present in that. So, I'm sure she will bring a lot of things for from there. But from what I gather was a very positive meeting. And they did discuss the memorandum of understanding, which is a big fancy word of the way that funding is allocated to universities. So, this is something that is of pretty big importance for STU, because that memorandum of understanding directly determines how much students pay the university because whatever money the university doesn't receive from the province, they need to make up through student fees and other avenues. So that is a pretty big and important document for students. So, we will definitely be exploring ways of improving the MOU funding for the university. Later that day, I also had the Senate Committee on Reconciliation. So, we had our meeting there, we are finalizing the strategic plan for the University Senate on ways to move forward for further reconciliation efforts for the university. We are also discussing a anti racism campaign similar to ones that you can see at the University of Toronto; we're looking at using their anti racism campaigns as a model and bringing it to campus. So, this could look like little information booths, as well as poster campaigns like those types of things to try and further anti racism on our campus. And I know whenever we say the term racism, a lot of us think of the more overt ways of racism. But there's a lot of covert entities and microaggressions that are still present on all campuses and everywhere. So, these campaigns target those specifically. And then later that Thursday, we had our executive meeting where we just went over the week and did some planning for next week as well. So that was pretty limited, things that we discussed in that meeting will be brought up a little bit later under new business. And then on Friday, I had a standing meeting with Jeffrey Carlton, a VP of Communications, we were doing some setup stuff for the 23’s event that was happening on Saturday. And I'll get to that in a minute. So, we did some pre setup on that. And then we just did some catching up on the events happening at the university and some of the things that we are doing here. So that was pretty good. On Friday, we had the NBSA board meeting, which was very productive. And there are a few things that are coming up in the committee's that are looking pretty good. And we do have ADVO week coming up, I'm sure Syd will be mentioning that and really drilling that home to everybody. So, it's a great way of getting involved. And I will be very brief on that one. Also on Friday, there was the rally for divestment. And I was in attendance. I think there might have been a couple of other executives that present as well. So, it was a very good event. We received great attendance, I think there was about 80 people that showed up to this event, which was amazing. There was representation from STU faculty, few government representatives were there as well as some indigenous speakers. And I gave a statement as well and it was a great event and they're looking at hosting another one next semester, which I encourage all of you to attend when that is announced. Moving on to Saturday with the 203. It was for Transgender Day of Remembrance, which is a day to recognize all transgender and nonbinary folks who have experienced or have experienced or continue to experience or have lost their lives as a result of anti transgender, nonbinary by violence. So, it's a very heavy day and a somber topic, but it is an important event, nonetheless. And I was in attendance and spoke at it, it was co hosted with STUSU, UNBSU and the 203. There were 35 people present, which is 10% increase to last year, which is pretty amazing, especially considering last year was an online event during COVID. So here, we are still in the midst of a pandemic, and our attendance was actually higher. So that's a very positive sign. And I think that is everything.

**3.2 Vice-President of Administration’s Report – Alex Nguyen**

Hi, everyone, I hope you had a well-deserved break. For my report, Monday, I participated in filming short videos for the Wall of Flags Ceremony for the International Education Week. And then I had a meeting with Maryam from the Experiential office to help them with organizing an event and training sessions that I believe will be beneficial for all of us here. They're going to go through the setup of an experiential record that will be available on your learning in action account that will record your activities and involvement with the STUSU and clubs and societies and then later on translate that experience to skills that will be helpful for like future employments. On Tuesday, I had my regular office hours, answering a couple of emails regarding Campus Trust. On Wednesday, I attended the round table, huge shout-out to Sydona. It was a great experience to have and looking forward to having organized more events that give international student a space to talk about their experience here in Canada. On Thursday, I attended the board meeting with Campus Trust, and then we attended the weekly exec meeting. On Friday, the finance committee made recommendations for the charitable application from Venezuela 180, which we're going to talk about in new business. So that's it for my report.

**3.3 Vice President of Education’s Report – Sydona Chandon**

Hi, everyone. So, on Monday of last week, I had to send some emails to conclude some planning for the International Education Week. We also had our winter warm up on that day, which was a success. On Tuesday, I participated in a video for STU communications that was used for the wall of flag ceremony. I had to also submit my NBSA report on that day. Then on Wednesday, I hosted an international round table in the Ted Daigle auditorium with panelists from NBSA, STUISA and STUSU, we also live streamed it and it turned out in my perspective to be a great event. On Thursday, I had a meeting with Petal that I spoke about tuition and funding. Tyler also mentioned the memorandum of understanding which is quite important to STU as it determines tuition for both domestic and international students. So that's something that we're currently working on in negotiating to get a greater grant here at Stu. So, keep that in mind that will be coming with further updates as things progress. I was also asked on Thursday to emcee the wall of flag ceremony, and also gave u speech among other great speakers. It was a really beautiful event as we celebrated diversity from so many different countries. I also had a meeting on that day, sorry, among other miscellaneous things. And then on Friday, I had an NBSA meeting for two hours discussing advocacy week along with Ty, it was a really good discussion, very lengthy, but we understand it's getting closer to ADVO week. So, after that, we also had an EDI meeting, which Ty chairs and they did an awesome job at presenting to our new member who is from UNB SRC, that's their new primary delegate. And so, we just had a bit of open conversation around equity, diversity and inclusion and just express where we are coming from as individuals and also as students. So that was really wholesome. That's about it for my report. I'll also mention as advocacy week approaches, we're looking for delegates that will help with lobbying, we're willing to work with your schedule, if you're passionate about presenting on topics of affordability, tuition and funding, and Equity and Diversity and Inclusion, among other things. So please shoot me an email. And we can explore getting you on board, as it's really important to have other students, student leaders, you know, to help to advocate when it comes down to going before the government and expressing what we want. It's different when you have a team of students, right. So that's something that we really want to share with you all and if you know someone who's interested to tell them about it. So that would be great for this coming week. If you can reach out to me that deadline has already passed. But I'm sure if we get more delegates on board, we'd be open. So that's about it for me. I just hope you all will have a good week and you push through we know it’s a hard time, but we're almost there.

**3.4 Vice President of Student Life’s Report – Victoria Young**

Hello, everyone. Hope you all had an amazing reading week. I missed you. So glad to be back with the SRC crew. So, I'll just go through what I did starting Monday, because over reading week, I think we all can agree we all took a bit of a break. So, on Monday, I had an in person meeting with the Food Bank Committee, which was excellent. As always, we just discussed a few more initiatives for engagement before the break, including the STU Santa’s Campaign, which they have already received a few applications for students who have children of their own in our STU community, just for the food bank to help them out with some food and gifts and groceries for the holidays. So, all of the initiatives that come out of the food bank are really heartwarming and really rewarding. So glad to be a part of those initiatives. And then on Monday, I also sent an email over to Enactus about their entrepreneur fair, that's going to be coming up, just emailing them the contact information for the businesses I received for the STUgenda over the summer that I know of a few students in our community. So, I just wanted to give those to them so they could reach out to those businesses and see if they were available to be involved in the fair. Then I also picked up a few prizes for the STU Student Life giveaway that will be starting tomorrow, which is really exciting. I'll explain more about that later. And then I also emailed with Ryan Sullivan, who is the VP enrollment, just about rapid test distribution out of the help desk. So that's something also really exciting so that our students don't have to go to the exhibition grounds or elsewhere to get rapid testing. They can just get it from STU if they feel that they need to be tested. Then on Tuesday, I emailed with Tory are lovely grad class rep about props for an event that they're planning for this Tuesday. So, some STUSU props that we have for like photo opportunities and backdrops. I'm just about getting those to them for that event, which is coming up on Tuesday. So, if you're graduating, come check it out. Then I also, of course, picked up a few more prizes from local businesses around Fredericton for our giveaway, then I also email the Experiential Learning Office for the Enactus event that's coming up. So, hoping to have them involved with that fair and having a booth there for them. Then on Wednesday, I met with the mental health committee meeting, which was very productive as usual. So, we discussed jack.org. And I just talked to them about what they would like to see out of it, and how we can maybe work towards representation of different groups on campus and representation that the members of that committee would then become. So that was really, really nice to have the student perspective on that initiative that I'm really wanting to push. And then I also had my help desk office hours on Wednesday, and I had a meeting with the post secondary relations committee with the city of Fredericton. So, this meeting is with the VPSL from UNB as well as the city of Fredericton, and a few more recreation and housing planners, part of the city. And so, it's their way of connecting with us to see what students need out of the city. How's the student housing availability, and the struggles that students go through for like housing is and how they can help that, as well as some other issues such as like, partying and street fires, burning stuff like that, like homecoming type things that are more UNB involved, but how maybe as a campus, we can make the Fredericton community a little bit more appealing, I guess, for Fredericton residents that aren't students who are living in the area. So, I'm just working on really cool Student Life Initiatives with the City such as that, right now, we're mostly focusing on the housing issue, which is really interesting, because that's something that relates really well to STU students as well. And then, of course, I attended the International Education panel, it was really excellent. If you have a chance, go check out the stream that's on Facebook, Sydona did an amazing job, hosting it. And Alex did an amazing job on answering the questions as well as Sony our international rep. It was really great. As a domestic student, I learned a lot. And then on Thursday, I had my executive meeting with my fellow executives, where we just discussed a few things coming up, a few little details about initiatives that we're doing. Then I had a meeting with Enactus, and we just discussed on how this event is going to go for the entrepreneur, entrepreneur fair and how susu can best support them. And then I had a call with Courtney Sarsfield, who is the senior catering sales executive at the Delta Hotel. So, I can confirm that we are having our winter formal gala this year at the Delta Hotel. So, I just confirmed with her about prices and about how it would look with COVID-19 restrictions and it's all looking really good. She's amazing to work with. So, we're going with the Delta. And then I also emailed jack.org, about power sharing between the Students Union and jack.org if we were to pass jack.org being a part of the mental health committee, so that was also pretty productive. I look forward to continuing those talks with them. Then on Friday, I sent the graphics from Enactus that Enactus had made about their entrepreneur fair over to Rinaldo, our director of communications so that he can, so that he can promote that fair through our student’s union social media channels. Then I visited Wanda from the alumni office who I love talking to, she gave me some STU stuff and new swag such as like hats and scarves and socks for the giveaway as well as for the hockey event in January that we'll be having with UNBSU. So, it's a women's hockey game, STU vs UNB so I'm working with UNB to have a really fun event that's free to students and there's going to be an entire section for students. So, I'm hoping to give away some like hats and scarves and socks at that event. So, Wanda helped me out with that which was awesome. And then I met with the activities and events committee, Valeria our activities and events coordinator and the rest of the lovely committee members just to talk about the winter formal and confirming the Delta hotel as well as the Thomists as a jazz band to play at our winter formal. So, I confirm those two and then on Friday night, and for a lot of Saturday morning, I did the giveaway bags. So, for the giveaway, what I'll be doing is as I ended up getting a lot of response from local businesses giving us a lot of like free stuff to have in a giveaway, a lot of gift cards and stuff to the point that it actually added up to be like, hundreds and hundreds of dollars. So instead of putting that in like one giveaway, or one giveaway per semester, I split them up into 35, smaller prizes. So, my plan is to have four giveaway packages per giveaway, I guess. So, there'll be four winners per giveaway. So, my first one is going to start tomorrow. And then I'll announce the winners on Friday. And then I'll also do on the week after having posted them on Monday and then contacting them on Friday night, which will be the third. And then that leaves me with five for second semester. So, I'll spread them out maybe one or two a month kind of thing. And for each of them, I have four prizes within it. So, on Monday, I'll post a grid of four different prizes. And then underneath in the caption, I'll say, this is exactly what's in it, like $25 gift card to this restaurant, and I'll tag them so that they get that promotion. And then how students are able to be in the draw is that on my VPSL Instagram, under the post, they will comment no more than two prizes they want to be they want. So, they say you know prize number three and four. And then they have to give a short little reason why. So, for example, if one of them is a coffee shop and a yoga certificate, they could say prize number two, I love coffee, or I've always wanted to try yoga, something like that. And so no more than two in the grid of four. And then it'll just be a Monday to Friday thing. So, when I do one in January or in February, it'll just be one week. And that's exactly how they do it. And all the prizes are different. So, I'm really excited to start this. If anyone here wants a prize, feel free to comment on the post. It's open to everybody. So, you might win. It'll be on my VPSL Instagram starting tomorrow. So that's about it for this week. Sorry, that was really long, but a lot of exciting things going on. Yes. All right. So yeah, thanks for listening.

## **Employee Updates**

**4.1 Activities and Events Coordinator (Valeria B.)**

Hi! So excited to be here with you. My name is Valeria and I'm the activities and events coordinator for the STUSU. This is my second year in the position. And to give you an update of what I've been working on. As Victoria mentioned, we're doing the planning for the winter formal. We have the hotel already booked. We are seeking for the volunteers to help us with the presale already, we are ready to come to our communications coordinator to help us take care and also create a strategy on how to sell the tickets for next week. Everything's ready. We already have ideas of how to like give access to our students with mobility disabilities to arrive to the event. STUSU provided us with a big budget, so we're excited about it. And hopefully the planning would be done this week and everything that will be left will be selling the tickets.

**4.2 Chief Returning Officer (Lynn)**

So, I'm Lynn. I basically just look over the election period for the year, so honestly, I'm not doing anything at the moment, so I don't have anything to report to you.

**4.3 Director of Communications (Ray C.)**

Hi, everyone, I am Ray, and this is my first year in the position as director of communications. And just to give you a little update, of what I've been doing this past week, is just basically I don't have them in order. So, it's just, I helped out in the international round table on Wednesday, I helped out making the graphics and designs for posting on social media. I helped out in the recording of the Facebook life as well. So helped out our president in drafting the new press release concerning Divest STU. And just general duties and I have been reached out for next week to create the tickets for the winter formal as well as the publicity, the graphics, and so on and so forth. So that's basically what I've done this week that I can recall right now.

Tyler: This is not directed at any one employee, but rather all of them. I just wanted to thank all of you for all the work that you do, and for taking the time today to come out and just introduce yourself and get to see our council. I think that, you know, we often forget who works in the behind the scenes helping us out on a daily basis. So, kind of the purpose of having you all here today was just to be able to put a face to the name for our counselors and for all of us to just say thank you and acknowledge you.

## **Representative Reports**

**5.1 Off-Campus Representatives (Carol A./Gregory R./ Lindsey G.)**

Carol: Everyone, so we're gonna need all OCs this week to plan our first holiday event. So, we're super excited. And I think that will be it for us.

**5.2 Indigenous Student Representative (Stevie D.)**

Hi, everyone. I really don't have much to update on last week, except that I've opened up the registration for the book club. I've put up a couple posters around campus that you can find the link to the registration. And we also have it uploaded on our Facebook page. Registration will be open for another week. And then we're going to begin a time period where we can hand out them before Christmas. But yeah. Registrations open but that's all I have to update.

Tyler: I promise I won't do this for like absolutely every single report. But I would encourage all of our counselors to consider taking on this book club. It is a really cool initiative. First of its kind on STUs campus. And it's a great way for all non-Indigenous and Indigenous students to come together and learn about these important topics. So, if you do have the time, it's actually not that big of a commitment. And I do plan on participating in this book club as well. So, if you do have the time, please take it on. I know it will be worth it for everybody.

Tory: I just wanted to ask, Stevie where can I find it online? Like do you guys have an Instagram or is it just on Facebook?

Stevie: We do have an Instagram, but we have not put it up into on Facebook. Our Facebook page is called STU Student Reconciliation Committee. And we have a post on there and I could just send it to you directly if you would like.

**5.3 International Student Representative (Sony)**

Last week was pretty eventful. On Wednesday, I took part in the international round table along with Sydona, Alex, and I also saw Tyler and Victoria and Ray at the scene. To be honest, I don't think I contributed much. I learned more than I put out. But I look forward to future events. And I look forward to contributing more ideas to the table by improving my public speaking skills and getting to know more about how student life works on a deeper level. And right now, so far, a very cool experience. Next on Thursday, I was also very happy to give a short speech at the Wall of Flags Ceremony. I listened to a lot of great ideas especially Sydona being very great host of that event. And on Friday, I joined the activities and events committee meeting with Victoria and Valeria, I offered some help in planning the winter formal. And my task for next week is to look into that jazz bands in the city that may be able to replace the Thomists. I've received some emails; I'll look into them early next week. And that would be it for this week and next week I'll also start working on the International Leadership Awards with Carrie.

Tyler: Never say that you do not contribute to something because I can absolutely tell you that you totally did. So always remember to give yourself some credit because all voices matter. And you raised some very good points.

Sydona: I agree as well. That's what I wanted to say, Sony, you did such an amazing job at talking about, you know what international students are dealing with. And just your unique perspective, you also add so much fun to the panels. So, I just wanted to say thank you. And also, I forgot to shout out my entire team, my executive team that supported me so much during that week. Honestly, I could not have done anything without your help. So, thank you, Tyler. Thank you so much, Alex. And thank you, Victoria. Like you guys make my life so much easier when I have hard days. So just wanted to say that.

**5.4 Harrington Hall Representative (Lauren H.)**

Tyler: So, this report is on behalf of our Harrington Hall representative. So, this week, Harrington Hall had the relaxation event, and it was very well received. And Lauren knows that they think that a lot of people had a great time, their house committee is having their weekly meeting tonight to debrief the events. And that's all they have noted.

**5.5 Grad Class President (Tory D.)**

I don't have that much to report this week. I've just been really busy trying to get everything ready for the grad class pop up shop happening on Tuesday. So that's been the majority of what I've been doing this week, I've been kind of getting our raffle basket and everything put together and we're gonna be having our next clothing orders. So that's kind of been what I've been up.

**5.6 At-Large Representative (Julia E.)**

I hope you all first of all, had a great reading week. What I've been working on is I'm in the stages of planning. I know I mentioned it briefly but didn't give it the details of the roundtable event that I'm looking to plan. So, I'm hoping to meet again with Sydona this week, and go over some of the final details and actually get a date. So, once I have a date, I will obviously share it with you. And I'd love to discuss as a council if anyone has some more ideas. But basically, that's what I've been working on. I'm really looking forward to getting that event underway. And I also just wanted to mention now that I'm interested Sydona, if you want to email me about advocacy week, I'd love to help out in that domain. And obviously, I'm really excited for the winter formal as well. I feel like it's a bit of a sense of normalcy back. But overall, that's what's been going on and I'll keep you guys in the loop once I have a date and time.

## **6. New Business**

**6.1 Charitable Assistance Application review**

Alex: Hi, everyone. So, this week, I have received a charitable application that was submitted by Venezuela 180. And since the amount requested is above 500, we did have to bring it up to the SRC and SRC has to make the final decision. So, the charitable line, currently we have 1000 in it, and based on the application and the rate they requested the amount of 800. So, the finance committee made the recommendation to the SRC that we will approve the amount of 500 as we still are in early stages of the school year, and that 500 will be sufficient for the time being. So, I guess I would open this for questions.

Victoria: Okay, so more just like a comment. I think this is a really great initiative by Venezuela 180. And what they have it as under the application, they have 40 Books $800. So, I did some quick mats. And that turns out to be $20 per book. So, if we were to approve the $500, that would be 25 books. So, I would recommend that this does seem like a good alternative.

Tyler: I'm not sure if we have a Venezuela 180 person/representative on our meeting. So, the question is like, do they have other avenues, like other departments to ask funding from as well to help support this initiative? Or is it just us?

Alex: It is one of our clubs and societies present on campus, so as the same as our other club and societies, they are expected not to fully rely on the union to receive fundings. They are expected to have other avenues, whether it's through fundraisings or asking for the faculty to support them. So yeah, I don't know if Venezuela 180 will be doing fundraising, but I know they have been fundraising events.

Minahil: Can I add something even though I'm not part of the SRC? So, I remember last year, I think Venezuela 180 asked for funding last year, as well. And it was quite a significant amount if I'm remembering correctly. And just I'm not trying to be like don't give them money, but it's like STU is not supposed to be their main source of donations/contributions. And 800 is a significant amount and if we have just a 1000 to begin with and its still the beginning of the school year. So, I just want everyone to like to be aware of this.

Tyler: Yeah, I will specify last year, the reason why higher amounts of funding from all clubs and societies were granted was because we were not in-person. So, there were a lot of our budgetary lines that were not being used for their original intended purpose because of the fact that we weren't in-person. So, but now that we are in person, and we are going through as close to regular operations as we have had in the last couple of years, that's why the recommendations for lowering the amount have come through.

Alex: And last year, they submitted the applications at the end of the school year asking for $750. So that makes sense. Like at the end of school year, you want the money to be used but considering we're still in the early stages of a school year, and that's why the Finance Committee decided to suggest 500 and they can always resubmit the application. And we can always approve another amount if it comes to that.

**Motion has been moved by the President that** **be it resolved that the charitable application for Venezuela 180 in the amount of $500 be approved.**

**Seconded by Victoria Y.**

**That motion has been approved by 8 present voting members of council.**

**6.2 Financial Policy Review (In Camera)**

Tyler: Yeah, so this is going to be a two-part motion. So, in order for any camera sessions since this is the first time, we'll go to an in-camera session, what it means is that it becomes a private meeting. So, anybody who is not a member of the SRC, unless otherwise specified in the motion to go in camera needs to leave. So, the reason why these sessions are sometimes called is if there is information that is not to be shared with the public but is specific to just internal operations of the SRC, or something that we just want to discuss free of public knowledge. I should specify that no votes can be made when in an in-camera session, so nothing, no formal decisions can be made without being in a public meeting. It's just a space for a safe and clear discussion on what is deemed as like sensitive motions. So, if there are any questions about an in-camera session before I make the motion to go into one, I will be happy to answer them.

**Motion has been moved by the President to have our finance discussion moved in camera including our employees in that discussion.**

**Seconded by Alex N.**

**That motion has been approved by 9 present voting members of council.**

Tyler: So first little tidbit. Employees are not voting members of the SRC because they are not elected. So that's just the first little precursor. So, the reason why I wanted to move this in camera is so that we can have a discussion regarding the near scam incident that happened earlier the last couple of weeks. So, I'm sure all of you have read through the emails that I had sent out, just to keep everybody updated and informed. So, a couple of weeks ago, we had someone create an email account and utilize my name and position credentials as a way of contacting SRC members and staff. So thankfully, a couple of the individuals who received emails like this have raised it to my attention. And I want to thank the two of you, you know who you are for, for going through and doing that, just because if it wasn't brought to our attention, we wouldn't have caught this in time. So, I immediately sent out the emails to everybody to let them know that this is what was happening, and contacted IT. So, with these scam emails, IT has since blocked this particular contact from having access to STU servers. But I wanted to let everybody know how this happened, so that we can look out for it in the future. So, anybody has access to a Gmail account to be able to create one and Gmail does not have any form of identity specifications in the creation of their accounts. So, they're able to use any name from anybody and attach it to an account. What a lot of individuals such as the one that took on my name, what they do is every time there is a turnover within organizations such as ours, they will use our human resource policies, and our human resource list of who was who on our websites and select those names along with their positions to create the domain within their emails. Now, unless there is a link that is sent within the email, our firewalls within the university will not catch it, because it is seen as somebody just having an email conversation with another person. So that's how our university firewalls do not catch these emails. The reason why we wanted to go through our finance staff with everybody is because one of the emails contacted, or one of the individuals contacted, were made to make purchases on behalf of the Students’ Union, and then have those purchases sent to an account somewhere like one of those things. So, this is a very common scam, it happens more than we would like to think. So, under our financial policies, the only people who have access and the authorization to make purchases on behalf of the Union are the four executive team members. And our general manager, the three people who are specified to have access to our accounts are the president, vice president administration, and our general manager. And all communications done by the Students’ Union is through the Students’ Union emails. So, it's the SU underscore, whatever the position is @su.ca, those are the only emails that are utilized by the Students Union. And the only three people who will ever deal with financial purchases directly, would be myself, Alex, or our General Manager. In the event that we did require anybody to make purchases or to give any form of financial information, it would not be via email. So that's just a little preface for everybody, just so you know how this all works. And we wanted to make sure that everyone was on the same page of this so that in the event that we have another email thread such as this come up, we know what to look out for. The number one way of avoiding situations like this happening is to be diligent and report. And that is exactly what you all did. So, thank you for following for following your guts and going through that way. But again, just so we're all on the same page, moving forward in case anybody else is contacted, or if you have another experience such as this, that is the proper procedure for going forward. We also, the executive team would just like to remind everybody once again that for all Union related business, please use your official emails because that is how we know that you are you, our vice president administration works very hard to ensure that those domains are kept private and within the Students, Union themselves. So that's how we know who you are. Even if you use your student email, we won't respond. So that's the last little update that we wanted to have. So again, thank you everybody for following through and making sure that we were aware of the issues. And thank you for giving me the time to just go through what our procedures are. If there are any questions, I will be happy to take them. And I'm sure Alex can answer any more of the nitty gritty stuff because I am awful at remembering those on the spot. So yeah, we'll just leave it there.

Alex: So, moving forward, if you're unsure of anything, please reach out to any one of us. We will be more than happy to help, Tyler and me. And for the employees here, please reach out to your supervisor.

Valeria: I do have a question about that. Right now, that we're talking about it. I guess like in the case of the winter formal, like it's the first time that I have to plan it of course. And if I have to a purchase for the event, am I allowed to do that? Or would it be better that Victoria would take care of it?

Tyler: Yes. So you would be under the same category that the Welcome Week Chair is so the way that that works is you and Victoria will work in tandem to be able to do that and you would keep all of your receipts and then those receipts and invoices would be sent to the Students’ Union and the Students’ Union would pay them out. So essentially, if you needed to make a purchase, you would either talk to Victoria or through yourself. And we would be able to provide credit card information from the Students’ Union to make those purchases. So that's kind of how that would work in the event that you would need to put a purchase on your own card, keep your receipt, and then you would file that with us. And then that would work the same way that an invoice does through the Students’ Union, and we would be able to reimburse you because you would be invoicing the Students’ Union.

Alex: Yeah, to add on to that, this is a little bit different from WW, we have a defined line for it. So, for all the activities and events whenever it touches one of the lines in our amin budget, you will need to submit your applications or like, have something sent to a finance committee for review first, and if the amount is above 500, it's gonna be brought up to the SRC for review. So just want to give a heads up on that.

Tyler: Yeah. So, the other part of the reason why we attached the little document there was just so that all of you had it and can save it on your computer. So, you refer back to it if you ever have any, like clarifying questions or any like, one to one thing. And if you do review it, as you're planning your events, or going through a different initiative or whatever, you have questions, please email Alex or myself. We work tirelessly on that budget and making sure everything is in line. And Alex has done a very good job of looking after our books. So, if you do have any questions, I would direct them to Alex.

**Motion has been moved by the President to return the session back to in camera meeting and resume our regular SRC meeting.**

**Seconded by Alex N.**

**That motion has been approved by 8 present voting members of council.**

**6.3 Changes to SRC Meeting Structure**

Tyler: I will try to keep this as brief as possible. So as part of our priority’s documents, one of the things that we have brought up is exploring ways of bringing about more decoloniality to the Students’ Union. So, I'm sure we all are familiar with the term decoloniality basically just ways of reversing colonialism within our organization. So, because of this, we would like to move two different motions as part of changing our structure. And this will be the first of a few steps that we're looking to explore within the SRC as a part of like a mini project of improving our project towards the decoloniality. So, the first that we are looking to do would be to include land acknowledgments at the beginning of our meeting, and the reason why we need to vote this through is because it would be an official change to our structure, and it would bring about changes to our Chair’s contract as she would be the one to deliver this land acknowledgement. So that's why we're bringing it up to council. I will read the proposed land acknowledgement and this land acknowledgement has been looked at by the Reconciliation Committee. It has also been taken and approved by the NBSA with a slight change in wording. So, the land acknowledgement will read as follows. “The 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.” So, this was again looked at by the student reconciliation committee, as well as the NBSA has looked through it. If there are any questions about the contents, any suggestion to word changes? I would be happy to answer and explain each of them.

**Motion has been moved by the President that** **be it resolved that we include the land acknowledgement as cited in discussion into the structure of the Students Union SRC meetings.**

**Seconded by Sydona C.**

**That motion has been approved by 9 present voting members of council.**

Tyler: Okay, so the second part that we're looking at doing is moving towards a union where there are no nonvoting members. So, as we currently sit right now, there are two officially listed nonvoting members on our union. Those are the grad class president, and the first-year liaison. Our union has the capacity to invite both two student senators, as well as to BoG members. And we also invite in education reps and social work reps in the event that they present somebody to us. So, since the senators, the Board of Governors, and the education as well as social work reps are not listed under our policies, they will be omitted from this vote. So, I'm just noting that in case anybody noticed our bylaws and stuff as they are not listed as official SRC members, they will be excluded from this motion. So, the logic behind this change is that in order to get a more inclusive Council and to ensure that all members of the student body have a sufficient voice, as well as boosting the appeal to students to run for these positions, we would like to remove the nonvoting restrictions. So, the reason why these voting restrictions were put in place was that the first-year rep may not be the full age of 19 at the time that they run. Now, the justification for removing that is that voting age in New Brunswick is 18 rather than 19. And the other side as well is that all of our documents regardless go through legal counsel before they are officially written in. So that would be our Constitution, our bylaws, the big governing documents that we have those two main ones, those go through a lawyer before they are brought forward. So that means that any event that we are bringing widespread constitutional change, we will typically discuss the executive team will typically discuss it with a lawyer before it is brought to the SRC for vote. And then when the SRC votes, any amendment that is made to that it is assumed by the lawyer that any amendments would fit underneath this in the first place. So, because of that process of the executive usually bringing major changes through legal counsel before it comes to vote. And with the voting age in New Brunswick being 18, we see no reason why the specification for 19 being our recognized voting age to stand. Now for the grad class position, this is a little bit more complicated. And Alex please feel free to jump in because you explain this a lot better than I probably will here when we were going through it in our executive meeting. But because the grad class is technically a little bit separate from the SRC because they have their own budgetary line that is free of SRC oversight. That renders them more worthy than a voting member, it would render them access to more monetary support than other representatives. So, because of that the grad class representative was not given voting powers, so as to ensure fair access to funds for all representatives. So, because of that, we are going to be looking at ways of either leaving the grad class representative as a nonvoting member or making changes to the way that that budgetary line functions so that the grad class president would be able to become a voting member. Now, because of the complexities associated with that process, we are not motioning for them to become a voting member at this time. However, I will make the motion that we include the first-year liaison as a voting member. If there are any questions before I formally proceed with that motion, I'd be happy to answer them. And again, if any of the executives like to add anything to that, go for it.

Alex: Yeah, I want just to add a comment on the finance side of the grad class. So, in order to have the grad class president becoming a voting member, we have to deal with the finance side because they are fiscally independent from the Union. In order to integrate that in they would have to receive the same access as any other committees we have under STUSU. The only budget they will have access to is the operating budget. And they would have to follow the same procedure route that is available to all committees and all clubs here on campus. And since we don’t have a separate line for that it will all fall back onto the operating budget.

Tyler: Yeah, I would just like to specify to everybody I know this is a very big change and kind of a complicated one. And one thing that I know we often forget to highlight, but I would like to highlight it here as well is that in the event that you feel that you may not have enough information to make an informed vote, you can always motion to table it until the next meeting, which means that we do not proceed to a vote it is pushed on to our next meeting, which will allow you to ask questions to anybody and the executive team or in the event that it wasn't me making the motion say it was Julia making the motion, you'll be able to message the person who had made the motion to clarify any questions that you have to get that information so that you are informed to make that vote. So, if you don't have questions now, but you think you might later, it is totally okay to table this, and we can revisit it at our next meeting. So, I would just like to, again, specify that and that goes for any of the motions that we bring up at this meeting.

**Motion has been moved by the President that** **be it resolved that we make the First-Year Liaison an official voting member of the SRC.**

**Seconded by Julia E.**

**That motion has been approved by 9 present voting members of council.**

**7. Questions, Announcements & Notices**

Tyler: I just wanted to follow up after that. Thank you everybody for passing that motion. I think it is a really good step into not just making sure that we are being representative with different voices and different perspectives, but I think that it's also a good step forward into increasing our relevancy and engagement with students. Because if students come to these positions and take on these roles and know that they do have that ability to have a formalized sway in the things that we do. It really brings value to those positions in those perspectives, so I just wanted to say thank you to everybody and we will be continuing on this little project to see how we can continue to improve our equity, diversity and inclusion within the Union and we will hopefully be able to find a way of reconciling with the grad class position itself so that we will have a full voting body with no more non voting members. So again, thank you, this is a start in the right direction I will be very happy to hear our first ever land acknowledgement given in an SRC meeting happening next Sunday. So, this is some pretty exciting stuff and thank you all for being so receptive to it.

## **8. Adjournment**

Motion for adjournment was moved by Alex N.

Seconded by ­­Tyler M.

Motion for adjournment was carried.

Adjournment at 5:27 pm.

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on November 24, 2021.

Minahil Fatima

su\_secretary@stu.ca

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council