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Council Minutes – August 4th, 2022

Prepared by Margaret Ann Gillis, Deputy Chair

# Agenda of August 4th Council Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Opening Remarks of the Chair
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Approval of the July 14th Council Meeting Minutes
7. Faculty Representatives’ Reports
8. Executive Reports
9. Students’ Union General Manager Report
10. Special Reports to Council
    1. Presentation on MyVirtual Doctor from Sam & Cory Wright from Gallivan
    2. Naomi’s presentation on Academic Advocate Pilot Program and Terms of Reference.
11. New Business
    1. ~~Approval of the implementation of MyVirtual Doctor for September 1~~~~st~~~~, 2022, with an opt-in/opt-out model.~~
    2. Motion to approve an Academic Advocate Pilot Program and Terms of Reference for the 2022-2023 academic year.
    3. Motion to ratify Matthew Whitehead as House Accounts Coordinator for the 2022-23 academic year.
    4. Ratification by omnibus of the ~~119~~ 96 O-Crew Generals
12. Closing Remarks of the Chair
13. Adjournment

# Students’ Union Representative Council Meeting

August 4th, 2022 | 6:02pm – 7:10pm ADT

Online via Microsoft Teams

## Call to Order

Molly: “I call this meeting to order at 6:02pm.”

## Roll Call

VP Activities & Events – Kali Beaton

Chair of Council – Molly Burke

VP Finance & Operations – Sam Delaney

VP Residence Affairs – Sophia Fabiano

VP External Affairs – Ben Fairhurst

VP Academics – Naomi Stobart

President & CEO – Brendan Roberts

Indigenous Student Representative – Harmony Bright-Doucette

International Student Representative – Francisco Chang

Deputy Chair of Council – Margaret Ann Gillis

Arts Student Representative – Jack Harding

Graduate Student Representative – Julia Schmitt

Board of Governors Representative – Violet Silva

General Manager – Sean Ryan

**Absent with Regret**

Indigenous Student Representative – Sierra Julian

Science Student Representative – Meredith Cudmore-Keating

Board of Governor Representative – Josh Kroker

Education Student Representative – Reaghan MacLean

# Land Acknowledgement

# Molly: “I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People. This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship, which Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources but in fact, recognized Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) titles and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. As a Wolastoqiyik woman on Mi’kmaq land, I will continuously educate myself on the land that I am on and work to be an ally for the Mi’kmaq people.”

# Opening Remarks of the Chair

Molly: “Welcome everybody! We have a couple presentations today and a couple items of business today.”

# Approval of the Agenda

Brendan: “I move to amend the agenda to change the ratification of 119 O-Crew Generals to 96.”

Violet: “I can second.”

*No discussion.*

Julia: “I’ll call to question.”

Francisco: “I’ll second.”

*Motion passes unanimously.*

Brendan: “I’d like to move to remove the implementation of MyVirtual Doctor from the agenda.”

Julia: “I’ll second.”

*Discussion:*

Brendan: “Just for context, we’re unable to implement it at this point in time, but I’ll let Cory and Sam take over and explain later in their presentation.”

Violet: “I can call to question.”

Julia: “I’ll second.”

*Motion passes unanimously.*

Naomi: “I motion to approve the agenda.”

Brendan: “I’ll second.”

*No discussion.*

Julia: “I’ll call to question.”

Violet: “I can second that.”

*Motion passes unanimously.*

# Approval of the Minutes of July 14th Council Meeting

Brendan: “I’ll move to approve the last council meeting minutes.”

Naomi: “I’ll second that.”

*No discussion*

Julia: “I will call to question.”

Violet: “I will second that.”

*Motion passes unanimously*

# Constituency Reports

Please see the August 4th Council Package for Constituency Reports. Below is any discussion had concerning reports.

*No discussion.*

# Executive Reports

Please see the August 4th Council Package for Constituency Reports. Below is any discussion had concerning reports.

*No discussion.*

# Student Union General Manager’s Report

**General Manager – Sean Ryan**

“Hey everyone! Pretty much everything I was gonna say has been covered. Only other thing is that opt-out is open now, so if you wanted to come onto our health plan or opt out, the link is on the Student Union page.

Julianne is officially parttime as accounts manager. We’re also looking forward to Matt coming back to work very soon.

Also a few job postings going out over the past few days, including security positions at the Inn. If you’re looking for a job, check it out.”

# Special Reports to Council

**Presentation on MyVirtual Doctor from Sam & Cory Wright from Gallivan**

*Overview*: The MyVirtual Doctor program entails health advocacy, increased access to medical equipment, assistance in acquiring prescriptions, and more healthcare coverage and services for students than the St.FX health plan does currently. To establish the MyVirtual Doctor at St.FX, a student referendum would be required in the Winter 2023 semester. If approved, implementation will occur in September 2023 for the 2023-24 school year with an opt-in/opt-out option for students decide if they want to utilize the service.

*No discussion.*

**Naomi’s presentation on Academic Advocate Pilot Program and Terms of Reference.**

*Overview:* Naomi has recognized gaps in the Academic Experience, such as accessibility of academic supports, and the knowledge around such supports or the Appeals Processes. An Academic Advocate would provide programming, knowledge translation, letter writing, and other supports for students going through the Appeals Process. Implementing the Academic Advocate position would entail approval from council, budget amendments, hiring and onboarding, and support from the University, which has already been obtained.

*For Terms of Reference, please see appendices.*

*No discussion.*

# New Business

**Approval of an Academic Advocate Pilot Program and Terms of Reference for the 2022-23 academic year.**

*No discussion.*

Brendan: I’ll move to approve the pilot program for Academic Advocates.

Julia: I’ll second that.

*No discussion.*

Francisco: I can call to question.

Jack: I can second that.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

**Ratification of Matthew Whitehead as House Accounts Coordinator for the 2022-23 academic year.**

Julia: “I motion to yield time to Sam.”

Sam: “Ah yes. Hello again! We ratified someone else a few weeks ago but they’ve since had to step down for personal reasons. Good news is, everyone we interviewed for this job was worthy of getting it and next in line was Matt, and he was super excited about it. If we ratify him, I’ll get training done ASAP.”

Naomi: “I had a couple questions pertaining to the interview process. Which candidate was this? How many people have turned the position down prior?”

Sam: “Two turned down, and Matt was our third.”

Naomi: “Which councillors sat on that panel?”

Sam: “Violet.”

Molly: “Violet had to step out, she has a work commitment.”

Sam: “And just so you know, I went through the panel before asking Matt, so they knew he’d be hired.

Julia: “I motion to ratify Matthew Whitehead as House Accounts Coordinator.”

Jack: “I can second that.”

*No discussion.*

Francisco: “I’ll call to question.”

Julia: “I’ll second that.”

*Motion passes unanimously.*

**Ratification by omnibus of the 96 O-Crew Generals**

Julia: “I motion to yield time to Kali.”

Kali: “Thank you! For the 96 O-Crew Generals, I’m confident they’ll all be enthusiastic and excited for these positions. Our O-Crew co-chairs have gone through conduct review, and all passed! I’m confident they’ll do a great job during O-Week.”

Jack: “I’ll make a motion to ratify the O-Crew Generals.”

Julia: “I’ll second.”

*No discussion.*

Brendan: “I can call to question.”

Jack: “I can second that.”

*Motion passes unanimously.*

# Closing Remarks

Molly: “Okay! That is everything for today! Our next council is gonna be August 25th – our last council of the summer too!”

# Adjournment

Julia: “I motion to adjourn.”

Jack: “I can second that.”

*Motion passes unanimously.*

*Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm ADT.*

# Appendices

**Academic Advocate Terms of Reference**

General:

1. One (1) Academic Advocate shall be hired during the Spring of each year. The Interview panel should be the Incoming Director of Academic Affairs, two councillors from the Students’ Union representative council, the outgoing Academic Advocate
2. The Academic Advocate is responsible for regular communication, updates and consultation with the Director of Academic Affairs, their direct supervisor.
3. The Academic Advocate will receive an honorarium set yearly by the Students’ Union Representative Council.
4. The Academic Advocate will also be responsible for programming associated with student knowledge and awareness of the academic appeals process.

Responsibilities

1. The Academic Advocate will function as a support and resource for students that are undergoing the academic appeal process through one of the two academic streams (Grade or formal appeal)
2. Academic Advocates will receive training in the Academic Appeal process and be familiar with these processes. They will receive training from the Director of Academics as well as Administration (Either Deans or Academic Advising) and Faculty members knowledgeable on the process. This training will be prepared by the Director of Academics for the Advocate.
3. The Academic Advocate should have understanding of both the academic calendar, academic integrity policy, and both streams of the academic appeals process. They will support and guide students using these resources and their training. They may work alongside the Student Advocates when advising on the Academic Calendar.
4. The Academic Advocate will be responsible for researching and supporting the cases of students and will provide support and advice to the student undergoing the appeal process. They may play the part of the “support individual” as outlined in the academic appeal process.
5. The Academic Advocate will meet with the Director of Academics following any appeal process and may meet with them following consultation with a student to discuss the decision and process to ensure there is communication and an acknowledgement of where there is room for improvement
6. Due to the confidential and sensitive nature of many of these appeals, the Academic Advocate and Vice President Academic will sign confidentiality agreements.
7. The Academic Advocate will be responsible for working up to 9 office hours per week during the regular school year.