**Students’ Union Representative Council Minutes – February 12th, 2017**

*Call to order 4:03*

Roll Call

Present: Cassia Tremblay, Mildred Syabeenzu, Iain MacLellan, Connor O’Brien, Rachel LeBlanc, Chad Hasegawa, Ryley Erickson, Taylor Chase, Victoria Sandre, Bry Crabbe, Nayo Upshaw, Will Gatchell, Brandon Hamilton, Sean Ryan

Absent with Regrets: Maddie Gillmeister proxy vote to Connor O’Brien, Mikaela Henderson substituted with Jessica Fullerton Returning Officer, Sean Ryan, Dr. Khoury

Late: Nicholas Favero

Will Gatchell moves to approve the agenda; Bry Crabbe is the seconder (11-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Opening remarks

Brendon Hamilton (Chair): Noting changes to agenda Andrew Beckett will present at next council meeting and council initiatives will be pushed to next week. Should be a good meeting.

*Mi’Kmaq Acknowledgement*

Approval of Minutes

Nayo Upshaw moves to approve the last council meeting minutes; Victoria Sandre is seconder (11-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Constituency Reports

\*Note Nicholas Favero joined meeting

Equity (Cassia Tremblay): Due to weather the Elaine Craig presentation has not been rescheduled. This may be live streamed. Attended the Marie Hanen lecture if anyone has any questions about it. Raising Justice lecture attended and 103 people in attendance. February is African Heritage month. Red dress project being launched by Aboriginal Society, President Colloquium after break.

BOG (Connor O’Brien): New survey going out to board members to see how things are going. Gender diversity and cultural diversity on the board. Focusing on exceptional female leaders. Have a meeting with the investment committee coming up.

BOG (Maddie Gillmeister): Absent with regrets.

First Year (Iain MacLellan): Going to go to frosh because they are not visiting during office hours.

Science (Victoria Sandre): Senate related: academic planning and midterm rescheduling for science students. Looking to optimize space in PSC to more science students to reach study goals more effectively

Arts (Nicholas Favero): Public lectures, quite well attended, Arts and all students getting involved.

Education (Nayo Upshaw): Happy to take any questions. Getting ready for practicum as work to rule is over. Meeting with Sean make hiring policy more equitable.

Graduate (Bry Crabbe): Not a lot to report, will speak later in committee report. We need keys for graduate students during snow days to the Physical Science building. Lots of work to do.

Business (Will Gatchell): Currently looking into banquets. Looking to help out and team up to make events for all years to attend. I have been discussing this position with potential candidates. Second meeting with advisory board ongoing discussion with faculty. Great representatives.

Mildred: Trying to catch and see what has been happening. Feels great to be back. Resuming council duties.

Executive Reports

President (Taylor Chase): Risk report for SNS deemed risk to students. Burmac proposal has been submitted but no response from university, overview/outline of what we hope to take moving forward key areas. 3 pillars including: alumni engagement: bring a select few back to play inaugural Burmac classis (hypothetical) what does Burmac mean to them, bigger than just a game, community involvement: engaging students into community through day of service and working with local organization, more than just a hockey game, give back, raise money, logistics and safety: bring game back to StFX Keating Centre, moving game to a Saturday least impactful to academics.

Question (Connor O’Brien): Were you given a timeline of response?

Response (Taylor Chase): Tuesday March 28th

Question (Nicholas Favero): Seeing as game was cancelled due to rowdiness brought back as a student initiative should it get out of hand again and turned into a news event what are the steps to cover ourselves?

Response (Taylor Chase): Could you please clarify the question?

Question (Joelle French): Thought about proposal - the clear expectations and explicit the game is not sustainable we will pull the plug because it is our responsibility this game is safe.

Response (Chad Hasegawa): Contingency leading up to the game, university believes this is a test run within this framework, if it doesn’t work are we ready to let it go.

Question (Cassia Tremblay): Is it restricted to university students?

Response (Joelle French): It is a precaution due to the nature of the game.

Question (Connor O’Brien): If this does get the go ahead does this have to go through council?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): Wait and see Taylor will present a special presentation.

Question (Maddie Gillmeister): Can you elaborate on Acadia running a Don’t F\*\*\* it up campaign?

Response (Taylor Chase): Thought about a campaign of what does BURMAC mean to you? What have you done to see it as meaningful? And the last would be something like that Acadia campaign.

Question (Will Gatchell): What are we talking in terms of ticket price?

Response (Chad Hasegawa): Working on the marketing plan including ticket prices. Whole day of events is a tentative ticket package. We will make this successful together.

VP Academic Affairs (Ryley Erickson): Successful bringing in the bystander session for pride week and now have a pool of trainers. Senate meeting was heavy but nothing concerning to students, business as usually. There is a national survey of student engagement that guides academic future which has a 40% response rate from students.

Question (Nayo Upshaw): Will students have to pay for tutoring night?

Response (Ryley Erickson): I will be tutoring Stats 101 and others are coming to tutor other classes.

Question (Nayo Upshaw): Is there a specific reason you chose this residence?

Response (Joelle French): Data came out at beginning of January showing where each house stands academically so this seemed to fit.

Question (Will Gatchell): What does the survey entail?

Response (Ryley Erickson): On Moodle, only just opened today, students fill out questions rank 1-5 and we compare to other schools to see where we stand.

Question (Cassia Tremblay): Is this different than the one Dr. Wamsley sent over email?

Response (Ryley Erickson): I believe it is the same one.

VP Finance & Operations (Chad Hasegawa): BURMAC was a big thing. I have started the budget process and am now meeting with full time staff and executive and stakeholders. Would like to do a health plan review with the committee in the next few weeks.

VP Activities & Events (Rachel LeBlanc): Update on XTalks: At the end of January full house, incredible speakers and great feedback. The HUB: working with Chad to organize phase one of logistics and bookings, hoping to open after break and brainstorming phase in seeing what students want to see there. Safety Pin project: hoping to launch tonight inspired by movement in the states, stand in solidarity for those who are need it and showing love to those who need it most. Will be handing out the pins throughout the week. Working closely with Pause for the Cause stand in solidarity.

Question (Cassia Tremblay): Do you know how many people tuned in the live stream of X-Talks?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Last time I checked I believe 3K.

Question (Will Gatchell): Is there a location for the hub?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): It will be in the Bloomfield café looking to change around the furniture but not disrupt current function and have it opens past 4pm so students can utilize.

VP Residence Affairs (Joelle French): Mental Health committee meeting looking for money for mental health first aid. Looking to help support MacIsaac. Got to attend the Plessis bucket hat ceremony.

Question (Nayo Upshaw): What is the team building in your report?

Response (Joelle French): Just personalities.

VP External Affairs (Annie Sirois): Have put forward budget submissions and other students unions are going through elections. SNS great time to do some administrative, going through policy papers and updating data and deeming whether some are out dated.

Faculty Representative’s Remarks

Dr. Khoury is absent with regrets.

Students Union General Manager Report

Sean Ryan is absent with regrets.

Committee Reports

External Advisory Committee (Cassia Tremblay): Strategic plan for the committee has been developed including: lack of support for international student’s arrival in Canada and parental income student loan applications. Setting goals and working with SNS and CASA.

Comment (Annie Sirois): I will circulate a STRAT plan.

Organizational Review Committee (Will Gatchell): Set an outline for rest of year including a transition guide, expectations and looking at the direction of positions.

Bylaw & Policy Committee (Connor O’Brien): Met on Friday, policies will be coming through council shortly.

Campus Affairs Committee (Bry Crabbe): Discussing what to use the CAC fund for with HPs.

Old Business

*Equity Advisory Committee*

Brandon Hamilton: Changes have been made based on what councillors provided. The international student representative would sit on the committee, also have the selection process for student at large, voting and non-voting members.

Comment (Annie Sirois): Activities and events should be capitalized and capital O is not consistent.

Comment (Victoria Sandre): Font size of article should be consistent.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): Article 3 “At the end of the each year”

Connor O’Brien moves to approve the Terms of Reference for the Equity Advisory Committee as written; Cassia Tremblay is seconder

Cassia Tremblay: Really excited about this committee I think it will be strong.

Ryley Erickson calls to question; Iain MacLellan is seconder (12-0-0 - *PASSED*).

New Business

*Aboriginal Student Representative – Terms of Reference*

Brandon Hamilton: No changes to the general councillor terms of reference.

Comment (Annie Sirois): Not all people self-identify as aboriginal, I feel it should be indigenous as well.

Comment (Connor O’Brien): The reason we use Aboriginal is to stay consistent with the university office.

Brandon: Students will identify when voting as the Registrar doesn’t have data for this.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): I am not certain that there will be an Equity Advisor with the University.

Comment (Iain MacLellan): You can self-identify with the Registrar this year.

Question (Nicholas Favero): Could you clarify, if someone wants to vote do they just go see Michael and Terena?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): The voting is an honor system, by checking the box you are giving your oath to the union that you identify with this population.

Question (Nicholas Favero): Can Michaels office turn down someone who wishes to run for the position or is it more of formality?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): It is a measure for us that they are identifying in that community.

Question (Annie Sirois): Is it possible to add a clause that this is in line with the university but that indigenous won’t be marginalized?

Question (Connor O’Brien): Can you clarify the difference between aboriginal and indigenous?

Response (Annie Sirois): Aboriginal doesn’t include Metis and Inuit people.

Comment (Connor O’Brien): The term would be First Nations that encompasses all Inuit, Metis and Aboriginal

Comment (Annie Sirois): I just don’t want there to be any barriers.

Question (Iain MacLellan): Is the nomination form the one that they get to signatures?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): Yes.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): We voted on an Aboriginal student rep I don’t think we can fiddle around with it.

Comment (Connor O’Brien): The process would be to change the name.

Comment (Gallery): The charter of rights in Canada states that Aboriginal encompasses Metis and Inuit.

Nayo Upshaw moves to approve the Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal Student Representative as written; Iain MacLellan is seconder.

Nayo Upshaw: After much conversation this encompasses all students that identify with this group.

Ryley Erickson calls to question; Nicholas Favero is seconder (12-0-0 - *PASSED*).

*Students of African Descent Representative – Terms of Reference*

Nayo Upshaw moves to approve the Student of African Descent Representative Terms of Reference as written; Iain MacLellan is seconder.

Question (Gallery): Is Black Students synonymous?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): CABBSS is in the community but the university goes by Students of African Descent.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): I think he vagueness is specifically so that we won’t identify people by the color of the skin so there are no cut offs.

Will Gatchell calls to question; Bry Crabbe is seconder (12-0-0 - *PASSED*).

*Hiring Policy*

Question (Bry Crabbe): Was it ever brought into questions as certain interviewers leaving and being in there for others?

Comment (Annie Sirois): Its under 2.4 any change shall deem the process void.

Comment (Brandon Hamilton): The panel has to stay consistent, it is at the discretion of the Chair of Council.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): I have a suggestion: all biases must be declared prior to the first interview and dealt with accordingly. Biases may be different for people.

Question (Iain MacLellan): Would this fall over all hiring processes or just executives?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): Over all hiring processes.

Question (Will Gatchell): Do we have to declare a failure to do so?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): Declaring a bias is at the discretion of the panel.

Question (Joelle French): 2.2 The panel should be made up of no less than 5 people why are we trying to make this panel so large?

Brandon: There are 5 voting members so no split decisions.

Joelle: This doesn’t streamline the hiring policy for all, when would this be applicable and when would it not?

Brandon: Bylaws specify who is in the hiring panel, this guides the process.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): 1.1 are union positions appointed are executive positions?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): Yes they are Executive and sub-executive positions council ratifies.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): Members needs to be plural and Vice president Academic - Considered friendly

Question (Nicholas Favero): Is it unreasonable for people to think that 5 people is to many to gather?

Response (Joelle French): I feel that it is. I think it should be no less than 3 people.

Comment (Nayo Upshaw): I feel that the perspectives will add to the hiring process.

Comment (Joelle French): I’m just saying it should just no less than 3.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): I like the idea of 5 people that seems feasible.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): I have never sat on one that has less than 5 people.

Comment (Joelle French): It was just a suggestions.

Question (Brandon Hamilton): Is there any councillor that disagrees with the 5? None seen.

Question (Ryley Erickson): Was there a timeline set when applications are sent to hiring panel, 12 or 24 hours?

Response (Bry Crabbe): Applicants get interview slots 48 hours in advance send out applications to panel at same time.

Question (Will Gatchell): Should we release the questions prior to interviews? I don’t think there’s anything to gain by releasing the question. Creates another contentious area.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): Questions are revised right up until the interview.

Comment (Brandon Hamilton): Don’t have process that guides interview questions. 3.2 Interview panel shall receive necessary information from the member of the Executive Board within 48 hours of the interview (e.g. relevant applicant information, references, responses etc.) –considered friendly

Comment (Victoria Sandre): I would refrain from applicant information but rather relevant applicant information.

Comment (Brandon Hamilton): All biases must be declared prior to the first interview and dealt with accordingly –Considered friendly.

Connor O’Brien moves to approve the Hiring Policy as presented; Will Gatchell is seconder (12-0-0 - *PASSED*).

*Ratification of VP External Affairs*

Nicholas Favero moves to ratify Zachiara Chatur as VP External Affairs; Connor O’Brien is seconder.

Nicholas Favero: I sat on this hiring panel with Taylor, Annie, Patrick, Maddie, Sean Ryan, and a Member of town

Connor O’Brien moves to go in camera; Bry Crabbe is seconder (11-0-1 - *PASSED*).

Connor O’Brien moves to use secret ballot; Iain MacLellan is seconder.

Comment (Nayo Upshaw): In pre-council we decided that this was the best practice and be consistent with all four.

Comment (Connor O’Brien): It would be consistent with all four.

Comment (Annie Sirois): I have never seen the point of secret ballot, you are voting for your constituency.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): I would like to invite the experience of the Chair.

Comment (Brandon Hamilton): I have sat on council for 5 years I and gave the option to council and they all wanted to do secret ballot. I would withstand from any opinion on secret ballot.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): The pure matter of the election and nomination of public would vote.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): I would like to vote for secret ballot to not feel added pressure to go with the group. Consistency is key.

Comment (Annie Sirois): I would just like to echo that people should be voting for their constituency.

Connor O’Brien calls to question; Nayo Upshaw is seconder (10-2-0 - *PASSED*) – Nicholas Favero and Taylor Chase voted no.

Bry Crabbe calls to question; Ryley Erickson is seconder (12-0-0 - *PASSED*).

*Ratification of VP Activities and Events*

Bry Crabbe moves to ratify Sean Hopkins as VP Activities and Events; Nayo Upshaw is seconder.

Bry Crabbe: The panel consisted of Annie, Patrick, Nayo, Nicholas Carpenter and myself.

Connor O’Brien moves to go in camera with exception of Nicholas Carpenter and Patrick; Iain MacLellan is seconder (12-0-0 - *PASSED*).

Ryley Erickson moves to vote by secret ballot; Bry Crabbe is seconder.

Ryley Erickson calls to question; Connor O’Brien is seconder (10-2-0 - *PASSED*) – Nicholas and Taylor opposed.

Bry Crabbe calls to queston; Nayo Upshaw is seconder (13-0-0 - *PASSED*).

*Ratification of VP Residence Affairs*

Iain MacLellan moves to ratify Rebecca Mesay as VP Residence Affairs; Nayo Upshaw is seconder.

Iain MacLellan: Myself, Annie, Patrick, Jacqueline Deleeback, Joelle French and Nayo sat on this panel.

Nayo Upshaw moves to go into camera with exception of Patrick; Bry Crabbe is seconder (12-0-0 - *PASSED*).

Ryley Erickson moves to vote by secret ballot; Cassia Tremblay is seconder.

Bry Crabbe calls to question; Mildred Syabeenzu is seconder (10-2-0 - *PASSED*) - Taylor and Nicholas opposed.

Iain MacLellan calls to question; Nayo Upshaw is seconder (13-0-0 - *PASSED*).

*Ratification of VP Finance and Operations*

Nicholas Favero moves to ratify William Gatchell as VP Finance; Connor O’Brien is seconder.

Nicholas Favero: Chad, Connor, Julieanne, Annie, Patrick and myself sat on the panel.

Iain MacLellan moves to go in camera with the exception of Patrick; Nayo Upshaw is seconder (11 – 0 - 1 - *PASSED*) – Will Gatchell abstained.

Cassia Tremblay moves to vote by secret ballot; Iain MacLellan is seconder (10 – 2 - 0 - *PASSED*) - Nicholas and Taylor opposed.

Nicholas Favero calls to question; Connor O’Brien is seconder (11 – 0 – 1 - *PASSED*). – Will Gatchell abstained.

Closing Remarks of Chair

Brandon Hamilton (Chair): I would just like to congratulate the incoming executive team. Next council meeting is March 5, 2017. March 1st nominations will be released for councillors, March 8th due, March 9th all-candidates meeting and Election will be March 16th. Anything to submit to council must be submitted by Feb.24th.

Adjournment

Ryley Erickson moves to adjourn the meeting; Mildred Syabeenzu is seconder (*UNANIMOUSLY PASSED*)

*Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm*