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Council Minutes – June 23rd, 2022

Prepared by Margaret Ann Gillis, Deputy Chair

# Agenda of June 23rd 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 April 3rd Council Meeting Minutes
7. Faculty Representatives’ Reports
8. Executive Reports
9. Students’ Union General Manager Report
10. New Business
    1. Ratification of Margaret Ann Gillis as Deputy Chair of Council
    2. Ratification of Anna Payson as Society Coordinator
    3. Ratification of Anna Payson as O-Crew Co-Chair
    4. Ratification of Sarah Turnbull as O-Crew Co-Chair
    5. O-Crew Executive Ratification Omnibus
    6. Ratification of Broden DeCoff as House Council Coordinator
    7. Ratification of Cheyenne Toms as House Accounts Coordinator
    8. Ratification of Summer Council Dates
11. Closing Remarks of the Chair
12. Adjournment

# Students’ Union Representative Council Meeting

June 23rd, 2022 | 6:04pm – 6:50pm ADT

Online via Microsoft Teams

## Call to Order

Molly: “I call this meeting to order at 6:08pm.”

## Roll Call

VP Activities & Events – Kali Beaton

Chair of Council – Molly Burke

VP Residence Affairs – Sophia Fabiano

VP External Affairs – Ben Fairhurst

VP Academics – Naomi Stobart

President & CEO – Brendan Roberts

International Student Representative – Francisco Chang

Science Student Representative – Meredith Cudmore-Keating

Deputy Chair of Council – Margaret Ann Gillis

Graduate Student Representative – Julia Schmitt

Board of Governors Representative – Violet Silva

**Absent with Regret**

Indigenous Student Representative – Harmony Bright-Doucette

VP Finance & Operations – Sam Delaney

Arts Student Representative – Jack Harding

Indigenous Student Representative – Sierra Julian

Board of Governors Representative Rep – Josh Kroker

Education Student Representative – Reaghan MacLean

General Manager – Sean Ryan

# 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 everyone! First council! We have lots of ratifications today.”

# Approval of the Agenda

Brendan: “I motion to add to the agenda that we will ratify Cheyenne Toms as House Accounts Coordinator.”

Meredith: “I will second the motion.”

*No discussion.*

Francisco: “I’ll call to question.”

Meredith: “I’ll second.”

*The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).*

Meredith: “I’ll move to amend the agenda to include ratifying Broden DeCoff as House Council Coordinator.”

Brendan: “I’ll second.”

*No discussion.*

Violet: “I will call to question.”

Julia: “I’ll second.”

*The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).*

Brendan: “I’ll move to approve the agenda.”

Julia: “I’ll second.”

*No discussion.*

Francisco: “I will call to question.”

Violet: “I’ll second!”

*The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).*

# Approval of the Minutes of April 3rd Council Meeting

Violet: “I motion to approve the minutes from the last council meeting.”

Julia: “I’ll second the motion.”

*No discussion.*

Francisco: “I’ll call to question.”

Violet: “I’ll second.”

*The motion was unanimously approved (6-0-0).*

# Constituency Reports

Please see the June 23rd Council Package or Constituency Reports. Below is any discussion had concerning reports. Arts Representative Jack Harding and BoG Representative Josh Kroker did not have reports to include for this reporting period.

*No Discussion*

# Executive Reports

Please see the June 23rd Council Package or Constituency Reports. Below is any discussion had concerning reports and VPE Ben Fairhurst’s report, which was not included in the Council Package.

**Vice President External – Ben Fairhurst**

​*Personal Message:*

Hi everyone! I’m so excited that we’re kicking off a new year of council. Before last year, I had never really been in these spaces before so I know how daunting it can seem - but just know we’re here to help and you’ll get the hang of all this so quickly! For those I haven’t met, my name is Ben and I’m going into my 5th year here at X. I’m a student in the Public Policy and Governance program, also studying for a major in Economics. I’m originally from Calgary but moved out here in Fall 2018 and have been loving the East over the past few years. This is my second term as VP External Affairs, and my job mostly consists of representing student issues/voices to municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government. I can’t wait to meet all of you in person. If you’ve ever got any questions about my work or want to get involved in the stuff I do, please send me an email! I’d love to hear from you.

*Internal (to portfolio):*

* StudentsNS Executive - Early in May, there was the annual elections for executive positions within Students Nova Scotia - our provincial advocacy group. Last year, I was elected as the Chair of the organization and had a great time. This year, I was nominated for the position of Vice-Chair and was elected to the position! This means that I will be part of the executive deciding the direction of our provincial advocacy.
* Government-Student Roundtable - Brendan and myself attended the first student-government roundtable of the year (there are 4 each year) in order to meet with the department of Advanced Education NS. We asked questions about their plans to advance affordability and accessibility on our campus and heard the issues from other student leaders around the province.
* StudentsNS Secondary Delegate - Due to my election as the Vice-Chair earlier in May, we needed to select another individual to be a delegate for St. FX within StudentsNS. I released a short application process and will have someone to fill the spot by Monday.
* CASA Foundations Conference - The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is the federal advocacy group that represents post-secondary student concerns from all across the country. Brendan and I flew to Ottawa to represent theU and we had a very full week of sessions relating to the issues that matter to us here at X, how to promote indigenous student voices on our campus, how to craft certain advocacy asks and improve the affordability of our institutions, etc. We made connections with SUs all across the country. We were also nominated and elected to different committees. Brendan will be on the EDI and Graduate Student Advisory Committees. I was elected to the Federal Policy Committee.
* Police and License Committee - This is a committee at the Antigonish Townhall with the Mayor and several counsellors. I sit on that committee to represent student voices. The topic this time was traffic calming in residential neighbourhoods, and the possibility of renting certain public parking spots to businesses in the area. I will update as more work is done.
* Meeting with Student Financial Aid - Had a quick meeting with the folks from the student services department within Advanced Ed. They are the ones in charge of student financial aid in Nova Scotia and were able to give us a lot more information on the ways to revolutionize financial aid in our province.
* Town and County Advisory Committee - Have been sitting on this committee since last year. It consists of representatives from TheU, RCMP, the Town, the University, and the Bylaw Office. The largest topic of conversation is how we can make the relationship between town and students more natural and supportive.

*External (to portfolio):*

* Maritime Student Congress - Our entire team (minus Sam) traveled down to Wolfville to attend the Maritime Student Congress. This conference brings together executive teams from all over the Maritimes. There was representation from Unions in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P.E.I. We talked about issues specific to students and schools in the Maritimes and made valuable connections with teams similar to us.
* President’s Gala Panel - Was invited to be a part of the final panel of the evening at the President’s Gala. I used the opportunity to inform the crowd about the role I play within the Students’ Union and the importance of donations towards student financial aid for those who need it to attend post-secondary
* Digital Strategy Design Consultation - Was part of the consultation conducted by the school on how they can revolutionize the digital services at StFX. We brought the main recommendations of putting a degree auditing tool onto Banner so that students know what classes they need to take, how many credits they have left, and how to keep themselves on the path to graduation.
* Inn Renovations Consultation - Was consulted on what changes would be good for the Inn. This project is being led by the VP Finance, Samuel, so we will keep you folks updated.
* AMICCUS-C Conference - As soon as I got back from my vacation, I was dropped right into the AMICCUS conference. I helped out by chauffeuring folks around town, being a shuttle driver between the campus and airport, and working security at the Inn for certain events. I am now a security guard fr.
* Annual Planning Sessions - Working with the exec team to establish what our team goals for this year are going to be. We will be linking up for a full day tomorrow to hash out our vision and turn them into tangible goals for this year.

*Sub-Executive:*

* Research and Policy Associate - Not yet hired!

*No discussion.*

# New Business

**Ratification of Margaret Ann Gillis as Deputy Chair of Council**

*Discussion:*

Kali: “Margaret Ann worked for theU in the past and I think she’ll do a great job. I fully support her nomination to be ratified.”

Naomi *(Point of Information):* “I’m not sure if we have quorum to vote on motions.”

Molly: “It’s two thirds, right?”

Naomi: “Correct, it’s two thirds.”

Molly: “The two Indigenous representatives count as one vote.”

Naomi: “I’m gonna check with Sean right quick if that’s alright.”

Naomi: “According to the council by-laws it’s two thirds – Sean says it’s good to go. I just wanted to double check so we didn’t have to go back.”

Molly: “Great, are we comfortable continuing?”

Naomi: Yes! I’ll make the motion to ratify Margaret Ann Gillis as Deputy Chair of Council.”

Brendan: “I’ll second the motion!”

*No discussion.*

Naomi: “I’ll call to question.”

Julia: “I’ll second the motion.”

*The motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

**Ratification of Anna Payson as Society Coordinator**

*Discussion:*

Kali: “I sat on the committee to hire Anna and she had great energy and preformed great in the role last year, so I think she’ll do well again in the position this year.”

Brendan: “I’ll move to ratify Anna Payson as Society Coordinator.”

Francisco: “I will second the motion.”

*No discussion.*

Violet: “I call to question.”

Julia: “I second!”

*The motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

**Ratification of Anna Payson as O-Crew Co-Chair**

*Discussion:*

Kali: “I can comment! She performed great in the interview and has the leadership abilities to pull it off. I’m really excited for her.”

Julia: “I motion to ratify Anna Payson as O-Crew Co-Chair.”

Brendan: “I’ll second the motion.”

*No discussion*

Brendan: “I call to question.”

Naomi: “I’ll second.”

*The motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

**Ratification of Sarah Turnbull as O-Crew Co-Chair**

*No discussion.*

Naomi: “I’ll motion to ratify Sarah Turnbull as O-Crew Co-Chair.”

Brendan: “I will second the motion!”

*No discussion.*

Julia: “I’ll call to question.”

Naomi: “I will second.”

*The motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

**O-Crew Executive Ratification Omnibus**

*Discussion:*

Molly: “This motion will be done by an omnibus.”

Kali: “I sat on the panel to hire all of the O-Crew Executive and I am very confident in all of them. We went through thirty people and chose seventeen execs and I’m confident in all of them.”

Brendan (*Point of Information): “*Do you want the mover of the motion to list everyone off for the sake of the minutes?”

Molly: “Let’s just simplify it by saying ‘by omnibus.’”

Brendan: “I’ll move to ratify the o-crew executive by omnibus as written in the agenda.”

Julia: “I second the motion.”

*No discussion.*

Francisco: “I call to question.”

Julia: “I’ll second.”

*The motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

**Ratification of Broden DeCoff as House Council Coordinator**

*Discussion:*

Sophia: “I can speak on behalf of Broden. I sat on the panel and Broden sat in the position last year and did well. He answered questions very intelligently and has ideas for how the position can grow this year. Julia also sat on the panel if she would like to include anything else.”

Julia: “Yeah, I sat on the panel, and you pretty much nailed it all.”

Brendan: “I’ll move to ratify Broden DeCoff as House Council Coordinator.”

Francisco: “I’ll second!”

*No discussion.*

Violet: “I’ll call to question.”

Julia: “I will second.”

*The motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

**Ratification of Cheyenne Toms as House Accounts Coordinator**

*Discussion:*

Julia: “I sat on the panel so I can speak to Cheyenne. We interviewed so many phenomenal candidates and we offered the job to one individual, however they declined for personal reasons. But we are in no way settling for Cheyenne. She is very enthusiastic and we’re very happy to have her.”

Violet: “I move to ratify Cheyenne Toms as House Accounts Coordinator.”

Julia: “I second.”

*No discussion.*

Naomi: “I call to question.”

Francisco: “I second.”

*Motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

**Ratification of Summer Council Dates**

*Discussion:*

Brendan: “I motion to ratify the summer council dates; July 14th, August 4th, and August 25th.”

Naomi: “I’ll second!”

*No discussion.*

Julia: “I call to question.”

Violet: “I second.”

*Motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

# Closing Remarks

Molly: “Thank you everyone for your participation today! I look forward to seeing you all at Positive Space Training on June 29th.”

# Adjournment

Naomi: “I’ll make the motion to adjourn.”

Brendan: “I’ll second!”

*The motion passes unanimously (6-0-0).*

Molly: “Meeting adjourned.”

*Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm ADT.*