# Student Union Representative Council Minutes

## Special Council Meeting November 19th, 2017 Alumni Lounge

**Call to Order: 2:48PM**

**Roll Call**

Present: Jessica Fullerton, Bry Crabbe, Emma Crilly, Sydney Pagan, Alex Corrigan, Pheerawich, Zakariya Chatur, Rebecca Mesay, Patrick Panet-Raymond, William Gatchell, Annie Sirois, Sean Hopkins, Sarah Elliot, Sasha Paul, Tanaka Chikwavaire, Melissa Grant, Lucas Middleton

Absent with Regrets: Sean Ryan, Marcia English

Absent: Kashya Young

**Approval of the Agenda**

Emma moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Patrick. (13-0-0, motion passes).

**Mi’kmaq Acknowledgment**

**Opening Remarks of the Chair**

Hi all, I’m hoping that this is a short meeting and that decision is ready for the potential upcoming referendum.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Lucas moves to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Bry. (13-0-0, motion passes).

**New Business**

Lucas moves for the Saint Francis Xavier University administration to place the following question before members of the Union through a referendum: Do you agree to the creation of a new annual fee entitled “Health and Wellness Expansion Fee”, payable be all students, which will be implemented at $125 per student each year for the next 10 years, beginning in the 2018-19 academic year?”

Emma Seconds the motion

Emma: Many students from my constituency have had a positive feedback towards the referendum, however, there have been many people who did not see the benefit in the referendum.

Annie: I would like to amend the motion to add “up to the amount of 5 million dollars” to the motion so that there is a monetary maximum.

Amendment is considered friendly

Annie: Would the councilors be comfortable at releasing the information gathered from the survey so that we can share the results with students?

Patrick: Should we take out things that are not informative or contribute no true value towards the question?

Annie: No, there is no need to be vetting through the responses to choose which is important and which isn’t. I do not feel this being a necessary thing to do.

Patrick allocates time to Rebecca.

Rebecca: Would any councilors like to speak about the feedback from their constituents on the survey?

Amy: When reaching out to students, I got two very polarized responses to the survey. Many students wanted to do the $250 for 5 years but the majority of those students are Human kinetics students and do use these facilities very often. Many students of the constituency in core sciences (physics, biology or chemistry) didn’t use the facility very much or at all. However, there are students who do recognize the value of the renovation even if they did not use the facility. The overall consensus was that it is better to go to referendum so that students can be able to vote on the matter.

Tanaka: Many students within this constituency simply said no, because of the amount of money. I also reached out to many of the students who are student athletes have still said no. This is mostly because of the financial consideration and the time of the project because of the amount of time that the project will take, constituents will not be seeing an immediate outcome for the project. As a minority group of students on campus, there is hesitation from students that their concerns are not being heard.

Melissa: The majority of the voters did say yes to go to the vote because it is important to give students the availability to voice their opinions.

Annie: One of the biggest comments that we did got about the referendum was “why the university isn’t financing this?” and this is because the university does not want to create any more bad debt for the university, there is no money to be put forth for the renovation.

Sydney: there was many mixed reviews, however there was more yes than no responses. The people who said no to the referendum still found that it was important that council still voted yes to this referendum because students deserve the right to vote.

Tanaka: Are we basing this decision off of the 200 students who answered this survey?

Jess: You’ve voting towards in accordance to what your constituents want.

Bry: Most grad students said that they did not want to pay the fee because they do not use the facilities. Many grad students said that they would not vote within the referendum so to vote it down now.

Pheerawich: There is a mixed response, there are people who are attached to saying yes. However, there are not many international students. There are many international students who may pay this fee and then not may not come back to the school. Many 3rd and 4th year international students are busy and they are harder to catch to be able to talk to so it’s important that we put forward the vote so that their opinions are heard.

Alex: In order to represent all students, we should go to a vote because many students believe that they saw value in the project.

Emma: If this goes through, can we ask the university to market this project and provide more information to all students?

Annie: They will be offering this.

Lucas: This will be before the referendum vote correct?

Annie: Yes.

Annie: The university administration recognizes the value of this project. StFX hardly goes to referendum and especially to this large of an amount so it’s important that they see this go through.

Sean: I just wanted to make a note that the VPs did not get the results of the survey.

Zakaryia: Can the survey results be circulated right now?

Lucas Described the results of the survey out loud.

Jessica circulated the results of the survey to the VPs

Sarah: The majority of students that I spoke with found it necessary to see renovations happen to the Oland Centre, however many students still opted towards the $125 over 10 years option.

Alex What the quorum for the referendum?

Jessica: This can be discussed after council.

Lucas: To speak to what Sarah is saying, people do not understand that the renovations cannot happen unless the money is there. This is something that has not been communicated clearly to students so could be swaying this opinion.

Sasha: Some students did also feel like their voices wouldn’t be heard simply because of the size. There are students who use an external gym facility and are not sure if they would come back to campus even with the renovations as well.

Emma: I do not believe that the university did the appropriate amount of marketing towards the project to be able inform students correctly.

Annie: The university will not be marketing until theU approves to support the referendum. If theU motions for the referendum, the university will be doing more marketing.

Pheerawich: Because there are such mixed responses towards the referendum, it should be taken to referendum so that students are able to put in their own opinion.

Annie Calls to question, Bry seconded. All in favour of call to question (13-0-0, motion passes).

The motion now reads: “I move for the Saint Francis Xavier University administration to place the following question before members of the Union through a referendum: Do you agree to the creation of a new annual fee entitled “Health and Wellness Expansion Fee”, payable be all students, which will be implemented at $125 per student each year for the next 10 years, up to a maximum of five million dollars, beginning in the 2018-19 academic year?”

All in favour of passing this motion (10-3-0, motion passes).

**Closing Remarks of the Chair**

Thank you all for placing your votes in the referendum motion, it’s going to be a great initiative for students to be able to vote on in January.

**Adjournment**

Bry moves to adjourn, seconded by Patrick. (13-0-0, motion passes).

Meeting adjourned at 3:13pm