**Students’ Union Representative Council Minutes – November 6th 2016**

*Call to order 5:02pm*

Roll Call

Present: Nicholas Favero, Mikaela Henderson, Brandon Hamilton, Cassia Tremblay, Connor O’Brien, William Gatchell, Iain MacLellan, Chad Hasegawa, Joelle French, Bry Crabbe, Dr. Khoury, Mildred Syabeenzu, Victoria Sandre, Ryley Erickson, Nayo Upshaw, Rachel LeBlanc, Maddie Gillmeister

Absent with Regrets: Taylor Chase, Annie Sirois, Sean Ryan

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

Opening remarks

Brandon Hamilton (Chair): Standard meeting tonight, sorry for the technical difficulties. Welcome Nayo Upshaw the new Education student representative! We are so happy to have you!

*Mi’Kmaq Acknowledgement*

Approval of Minutes

Ryley Erickson moves to approve the last council meeting minutes; Cassia Tremblay was the seconder (11-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Brendon is corrected to Brandon and counsil corrected to council – considered friendly.

Constituency Reports

Equity (Cassia Tremblay): Working with Joelle on Sex Positivity Week (a series of events) for November 14th -18th. Bringing in the Bystanders, screening of UnSlut and a panel discussion. If anyone has any other name options please let me know. Planning for National Day of Remembrance and Action for Violence against Women on Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm, if you would like to attend please let me know.

International (Mildred Syabeenzu): Not much to report since last meeting, however, we had a great pumpkin carving event. Also attended the Equity meeting that Cassia organized and many issues came up, it was great! We managed to approve some society allocations through budget and finance. Have been working with Mala to advocate for giving international students 48hrs after their exams to leave residence instead of 24hrs. Also working on organizing a faculty-international forum to connect these two groups to exchange ideas on expectations from both parties. Looking forward to having this event in January.

Question (Nicholas Favero): Is the 48hrs part of a bigger movement for all students?

Response (Mildred Syabeenzu): I think it is something beneficial for all students.

Comment (Cassia Tremblay): At a meeting with the internationalization team, it could be suggested that those groups planning the world market could invite their professors personally to the event.

BOG (Connor O’Brien): Slim report as succession planning does not start until tomorrow. Trying to look into avoiding what happened with Dr. Riley’s salary. Will be meeting with divest X soon to try to get their mission into place.

BOG (Maddie Gillmeister): Will send out the link of the Brian Mulroney talk that happened a few weeks ago. Student engagement was excellent and a lot of hype via social media and news stations. Hoping to give constituents more details on plans as they come. Andrew Beckett will be here next council meeting to give a detailed report on what will happen with the centre so please try to get your constituents out to the meeting on November 20th.

Question (Connor O’Brien): Is Andrew or Leon coming?

Response (Maddie Gillmeister): Andrew.

Question (Victoria Sandre): When does construction begin?

Response (Maddie Gillmeister): May 2017.

First Year (Iain MacLellan): Frosh are giving really good feedback on Theatre Antigonish proposal. Frosh would like more promotion on arts events, i.e. coffeehouses, so I will be starting to plan something like this.

Question (Connor O’Brien): Are any of our committees tasked to look into Theatre Antigonish?

Response (Chair): Yes, Budget and finance.

Science (Victoria Sandre): BA/Sc option is getting kinks worked out, so if you have any questions please let us know as we are starting to get some ideas.

Question (Connor O’Brien): What faculty would these students fall under?

Response (Ryley Erickson): It is a new faculty, so they would be their own group, probably wouldn’t have their own Dean but looking into it.

Question (Connor O’Brien): What is the timeline?

Response (Ryley Erickson): Looking into starting fall 2017.

Arts (Nicholas Favero): BA/Sc is important so anyone who has a view on what the purpose of university is, etc. please let us know! Have been sitting on society review and have one society up for review tonight. Looking more into coat check options – lottery night.

Business (Will Gatchell): Since last meeting I have met with Brandon and Brad Long. We have been discussing the structure of what the business council should look like. Looking at making the Terms of Reference to get sent to Brad then checked over by Brandon. Looking to have applications out before December break and then have the meetings start in January.

Graduate (Bry Crabbe): Collaborated on making a list serve so can now communicate with all grad students at the same time. Will be sending an email with Taylor to them ASAP. Info session on graduate studies last week which had a decent turnout. Still trying to promote grad studies.

Education (Nayo Upshaw): Thank you for having me, very excited to be here! Last day of education classes is Tuesday and we are getting ready to get into practicum next week! Working on self-betterment Fridays with the faculty.

Executive Reports

VP Academic Affairs (Ryley Erickson): Spent a lot of this week on getting the BITB program going! Margie MacKinnon and I will be chairing the new BITB Coordinator committee so that we can be the trainers of the trainers. Looking into having a info session on the BA/Sc soon!

VP Finance & Operations (Chad Hasegawa): Thanks to Victoria and the charity reps Trick or Eat raised over 2000lbs of food and $3000. On a drinking culture working group so now we are all on the same page. Looking at the Keeping in Social surveys. Over 300 responses so now Joelle will be looking into some events for this. Working with Robert Proctor and Rachel on the Hub idea for non-drinking space. Looking into where and feasibility of this.

Question (Victoria Sandre): Curious as to what office the drinking culture working group and who is on this group?

Response (Chad Hasegawa): Within our culture change drinking culture came up so Joelle, Taylor and I took this upon ourselves. Talked about looking into social drinking places on campus. A piolet project at U of C showed social drinking improved residence culture so looking into that.

Question (Nicholas Favero): Can you talk about why the Women and Business and X Debate got $500 each?

Response (Chad Hasegawa): This is because these two societies have shown a lot of drive to get external funding and have been successful so we figured we could help out to reward their hard work.

Question (Connor O’Brien): Is opening lounges on campus for drinking where this social drinking is maybe going?

Response (Joelle French): Very preliminary discussions but looking into piloting this in certain residences.

VP Activities & Events (Rachel LeBlanc): Lots of great coffee houses in residences. World market coming up! One month till X ring was great and X ring is coming up!

Question (Maddie Gillmeister): What is the X-ring ticket format?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Physical tickets.

Question (Mildred Syabeenzu): Do you have any plans for students coming in January intake?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): We have 2 years eve planned and looking into starting to plan January shortly. Encourage anyone with ideas to let me know.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): This year those coming in in January were allowed to participate in September frosh week.

Question (Mildred Syabeenzu): You need that adaptation to university life. We are expecting 30 international students. It would be nice to treat them like the September intake.

Question (Nayo Upshaw): Can you elaborate on your meeting with the O-Crew co-chairs regarding EBAE?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Discussed how it went and what we can improve on still. We will be discussing moving forward soon.

VP Residence Affairs (Joelle French): Wednesday was the house hockey cup forum which was a huge success with over 100 students. Shifting through this information and will be developing a report on the positives, negatives and potential improvements. Had some great feedback on the proposed house hockey cup policy and will be presenting this to council soon. MacNeil HP/VP applications were re-opened and we did get some applicants. Will be having interviews shortly. Unfortunately the Chillis HP will be stepping down due to personal reasons so the VP will be stepping into this role and we have 2 applications for the VP role. Discussed changes in residence with committee and will be developing a report and will be giving a public presentation to campus on. Tomorrow morning Senator Murray Sinclair will be on campus at 11am. Please attend!

Faculty Representative’s Remarks

Dr. Khoury: We had a general faculty meeting Friday and they have adopted the Mi’Kmaq Acknowledgement*.* The A-VP has put together an academic plan so he tasked the Deans to produce a report for their respective faculties to see how we would like to proceed as a singular unit. There is a lot of excitement about the new programs. Concerns about classroom space with the construction of the Mulroney centre but the university is looking into this. Excitement and anxiety with all the new things coming. Going to be more working groups with the Arts and we will have a presentation on this later tonight.

Question (Gallery): Will there will be opportunities for student engagement with the faculty reports?

Response (Dr. Khoury): I don’t know but I would assume that there would be interaction. Of course everything has to go to senate where we do have student representatives. I would imagine each Dean has their own way of proceeding.

Committee Reports

Organizational Review Committee (Maddie Gillmeister): Hoping to have some documents passed through the By-Law and policy committee and then a presentation to council by November 20th regarding hiring/transition. Heavily looking into the equity proposal to council a few weeks ago. Doing outreach to students and getting professional help.

By-law and Policy (Connor O’Brien): Going to be doing a complete overhaul of the U policies. Started looking into what policies we need to write and edit. Looked into other universities and their policies. Came up with a few ideas of policies including: email use policy, respectful workplace policy, office use policy and others.

Question (Gallery): What is an example of an inadequate policy?

Response (Connor O’Brien): More so not inadequate but not in use anymore, ie campus police policy. Also would like to set in store to determining what happens when you break policy.

Comment (Chair): Also the policies will have an expiration date, most-likely an every 3 year review.

Special Reports to Council

*Arts Presentation (Presenter: Chair of the Faculty of Arts, Mathias Nilges)*

Thank you for having me here! We developed an overall process including re-energizing the faculty of arts. In the faculty of arts we have 15 departments and programs and that should be our strength and we need to lean on that to become more active. Have developed an ideas document for ideas. Part of that is a working group that includes students. We would like to know what ways we can welcome students better and get them out to events. This would be a Faculty of Arts Students’ Council (about 3-5 members). We want people to sit in on the working group as we are not sure on the best ways on how to reach out to students. There is going to be a lot of new committees so we would like to be able to use this council to reach students. Doing a lot of bringing education to where the students are and we need students to help with this.

We have already passed a more structured support for the X-Debate team. We have also started supporting the Maple League Journal. There will be a lot more opportunities to students and we need ways to reach the students, hence the council.

This is what we envision.

Question (Ryley Erickson): I know larger universities have this, do smaller universities?

Response (Mathias Nilges): I know in the US but we believe it is necessary.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): Would you like U students for this like Nicholas for example or students at large?

Response (Mathias Nilges): Not sure, we know this will be work intensive so don’t want to overburden the current positions. A lot of universities have is colloquia. This is something students involved with for setting up. How exactly this is located in regards to the U, I don’t know. We don’t have preferences.

Comment (Chad Hasegawa): Maybe something for ORC to look at. Maybe it would be good to have a mix of students at large and council?

Comment (Nicholas Favero): Maybe with the addition of new positions to council being considered.

Question (Connor O’Brien): Is there faculty support for this?

Response (Mathias Nilges): Those meetings have been as badly attended as the student events. So this is where the concerns come from. I think the buy in will grow if they see students are a part of it.

Question (Victoria Sandre): 3-5 students or members? And would you task these people to committees?

Response (Mathias Nilges): Students as we will be striking a bunch of new ad-hoc committees. Yes, they would be able to chair committees, etc.

Question (Ryley Erickson): Is there an ask from us or just information?

Response (Mathias Nilges): I think more just information. We didn’t even know there is a structural base to build on [Arts rep]. I will leave it to you guys. Maybe the Arts rep can come to our next meeting and we can discuss.

Question (Connor O’Brien): With Will spearheading this in business, where do you see us falling into this Chair?

Response (Chair): The only students’ union thing would be how you pick these students to be on the council. For business we are looking into having the elected rep and external faculty to look at applications and appointments. This may help get a more diverse groups. If Nick attends the meeting next week then we can start to get some logistics going after he gets more information.

Comment (Mathias Nilges): Another idea that came up is a Faculty of Arts internship program. So as this is a large commitment then we could try to see if there would be an internship program.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): What’s your timeline for an ideal start?

Response (Mathias Nilges): We are already underway. Our immediate plan includes the colloquia series and a new website so the sooner the better. The plan for the fall focuses on first and second year students. Focusing on student retention and engagement. We would like to start planning for the fall now, so sooner the better.

Chair: Thank you for taking the time that was a great and helpful presentation. We will get updates through Nicholas and perhaps ORC can start looking at this in January.

Old Business

None.

New Business

*Ratification of Water Polo Society*

Nicholas Favero moves to ratify the Water polo society; Maddie Gillmeister is the seconder. Nicholas adds that all the paper work is good and student took this initiative amongst themselves and this is wonderful. Maddie has nothing to add.

Question (Victoria Sandre): Who is the contact?

Response (Tiffany MacLellan): Brittany Kraft. She started this society in two days it is awesome (claps all around).

Cassia Tremblay calls to question; Victoria Sandre is seconder (11-0-0 – PASSED)

*Ratification of Students at Large for the External Affairs Committee*

Cassia Tremblay moves to ratify Connor Wasson and Darshana Sridharan as students at large on the External Affairs Advisory Committee; Mildred Syabeenzu is seconder. Cassia adds that 10 interviews were conducted and it was tough decision making but we did chose these students as we feel they will complement each other and reach diverse student bodies. Realized going through this process that 2 positions might be limiting so for the future looking into more positions might be beneficial. We are very confident. Mildred adds we are all confident.

Question (Ryley): who was on the appointment panel?

Response (Cassia): Myself, Mildred and Annie.

Question (Connor): What programs?

Response (Cassia): We did not consider programs so we do not know.

Response (Mildred): Just for information one is political science and the other is business.

Question (Connor: Was it unanimous?

Response (Cassia): Yes.

Maddie Gillmeister calls to question; Bry Crabbe is seconder (10-0-1 – PASSED, Abstention due to knowing these students personally).

Closing Remarks of Chair

Brandon Hamilton (Chair): Thanks for coming out. Good luck with finishing up academics! Please encourage students to come out to the next meeting for the Mulroney institute presentation. I will be on practicum next week but I will be on email and Mikaela will be using my office for hours.

Adjournment

Connor O’Brien moves to adjourn the meeting; Iain MacLellan is seconder (*UNANIMOUSLY PASSED*)

*Meeting adjourned at 6:17pm*