



Students' Representative Council - Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27th, 2025
Beveridge Forum

In the Acadia Students' Union, we acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We recognize that we are all treaty people and have commitments to each other and the land in which we live, learn, work, and play upon. As a Students' Union, we commit ourselves to continuous learning about how we can engage in meaningful action towards truth, reconciliation, and justice.

Present

President, Yash Gahlot (voting) **P**
Vice-President Student Life, Sterling Shannon (voting) **P**
Vice-President Academic and External Affairs, Sam Taylor (voting) **P**
Vice-President Events and Promotions, Zahide Çam (voting) **P**
Vice-President Finance and Operations, Archit Singh (voting) **P**
Arts Senator, Genna Beed (voting) **P**
Science Senator, Julia Shirokov (voting) **P**
Councilor-at-large, Treyvon Nicolls (voting) **P**
Councilor-at-large, Emma Boles (voting) **P**
Diversity and Inclusion Representative, Danielle Dullay (voting) **P**
Community Relations Representative, Cyenna Link (voting) **P**
Sustainability Representative, Carmen Peng (voting) **P**

Absences

Professional Studies Senator, Sophia Carpenter (voting)

Guest

Sadie McAlear
Mitchell Archibald

Resources

Chair of Council, Ben McCulley (non-voting) **P**
Vice-Chair of Council, Gretchen Archibald (non-voting) **P**
Chief Returning Officer, Ahmad Raza (non-voting) **P**



Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM ADT.

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda and Previous Minutes

BIRT the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Cyenna

Seconded by Treyvon

Motion approved

BIRT the January 10th Meeting Minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by Genna

Seconded by Yash

Motion approved

4. Presentations

a) DASH Fund

- Sadie and Mitchell. Student Housing Nova Scotia /DASH Fund Campaign representatives
- Nonprofit organization
- DASH Fund used to create housing that meets needs of students, supporting construction and acquisition of affordable housing for post-secondary students in NS
- Housing is the defining issue of this generation, there is a student housing crisis as outlined in the handout, affordability and suitability. Are they in unsafe, unhygienic or unsuitable environments?
- Opportunity to shape the future of student housing and build students a better future for less than the cost of lunch
- Other organizations across the country based on the model presented today
- A \$5 contribution per semester from each student offers students the opportunity to have their say through a campus-wide referendum vote. The DASH fund contributes funds to start projects (5-10%). Student Housing NS uses funding sources and financing to cover the remainder of project costs.
- The ASU will have oversight and approval on use of funds. Funds contributed by Acadia students go back to housing projects in your community (Wolfville, NS). Multiplies student investment by 20.



- Tenants have saved on average between \$250-500 per month, equivalent to \$24,000 over a 4-year degree. More low-cost housing decreases rent for everyone in your community

Emma asked what the rent for currently owned housing looks like and what the units look like. Mitchell responded and said that the longer term owned properties are cheaper over long term. 1 bedrooms were just under \$1000 in Halifax. A property owned for less time would be a little more expensive due to renovations, etc.

Emma asked about the impact in the community and what the short-term impact will be. Mitchell said that they are still trying to learn and understand the difficulties they are facing and actively listening to what level of support people need. He said that more engagement with the ASU is something they'd like to do.

Money collected from the students here would go to developing and creating new housing, not renovation costs.

Genna asked how they are determining rent costs for each individual property and what amenities are included? What protections are in place to keep rent from skyrocketing?

Mitchell said that the amenities are something that would be discussed and decided per property in accordance with what is needed. Depending on the property it will decide how much revenue they'd want for a renovation fund for the property. All costs will go up every year and so rent will have to as well, but in a conscious way.

Treyvon asked how the 1:20 ratio works

Mitchell said that they have access to different streams of funding as a non-profit within grants, which makes things more affordable. They only need the cash contribution in order to get the money from these grants or other sources of funding.

Sterling asked for elaboration about the rent price for different properties.

Mitchell said that he can't give an exact amount due to the differences, but can give contacts to get this information.

Ahmad asked where the housing will be promoted and what the restrictions will be on 1 bedroom rentals for couples/friends.

Mitchell said that they have never denied 2 people on a 1 bedroom lease, and never really asked. As long as they are both on the lease. They are posted anywhere that students look, Kijiji, Facebook Marketplace, etc.

Archit asked if the \$5 will remain the same throughout the years or if it will increase through inflation

Mitchell said it's difficult to tell, if the other fees increase by inflation, then that's great but it will defer to how other policies function.

Emma asked for accountability for cost breakdown for each house, transparency between landlord and students.

Mitchell said they are open to feedback, there would be a clear budget in order to get grants, etc. It is all broken down into proposal.

Zahide left at 6:28pm



5. Standing Items

a) Committee Chairs

Cyenna talked about asking for more funding from Acadia to keep program going in April, talked about housing currently in works to do housing accelerator fund with Acadia community to get mixed housing opportunities.

Emma spoke about meeting with the timetable committee, talked about reading week and homecoming and how these can be adjusted, there was a lot of discussion over it. Emma expressed that she felt she had no say in discussing the dates, the agenda was pre-approved and opinions were not well received. She spoke about how they've made a strategic plan for the next 5 years and they have been approved. They approved the timetable for next year and when asking about where it is being posted online they said they posted it online. Someone on the committee expressed it is something they have not been doing, and Emma said she wrote this down and would like some accountability for posting the strategic plan for people to be able to plan events to involve students. Having somewhere online where that is posted would be good.

Emma said they are not who approve it, it is someone else, it is confusing as to who is in charge of what and would like to have conversations about this because it is very confusing. Is there 1 distinct entity who decides this?

Sam expressed that this might be a problem of a lack of communication, lack of input of the students for development of strategic plan and lack of involvement within the student body. This will be something that will be discussed.

Emma said that as a student this committee meeting was a bit of a negative experience. The agenda was not accessible until the meeting itself and is not accessible after the meeting. How can students be expected to want to come join these committees without this communication? Can we address this with the committee?

Archit said the finance committee met on the 13th of January and approved some funds requests and disapproved one. They also had a discussion on the financial literacy night

Emma talked about Financial Literacy night, talking about financial literacy as a student.

Archit said that the literacy workshop posters will be uploaded on social media soon and what will be happening in the workshop will be posted as well. Friday the 7th from 3-5 will be the best day for the students and the presenter as of right now. If anyone has concerns about the time, please let Archit know.

b) President

Yash spoke about the Town and gown committee and how he will be talking more in camera.

c) Chair of Council

Ben talked about the review board meeting coming up on Friday that is still being planned. Other than that, he has been focused on Grad Exec things right now.



BIRT the SRC extend this meeting for an hour

Moved by Treyvon

Seconded by Cyenna

Motion approved

6. Unfinished Business

- a) University Strategic Planning Committee Appointments

BIRT the SRC table this item until the next meeting.

Moved by Sam

Seconded by Yash

Motion approved

7. New Business

For Discussion

- a) University Protest Policy

Will be discussed in camera.

For Decision

- b) Council Resignation

The Chair read the First Year Rep's resignation letter.

BIRT the SRC accept the resignation of Abiya Babu.

Moved by Sterling

Seconded by Treyvon

Motion approved

- c) Bi-Weekly Council Meeting Time

BIRT the Students' Representative Council agree to a regular biweekly meeting time of 5:30-7pm Monday Nights starting on February 10th

Moved by Emma

Seconded by Sterling

Motion approved



d) Food Security Referenda

Sterling said that for student organizations like food sharing we want to have a policy in place for how they run referenda. No Referenda presentation was given and no motion arose.

e) DASH Fund

BIRT Council approves the following referendum question to be put forward to students during the upcoming ASU general election;

“Do you support creating affordable housing for Acadia students by implementing a \$5/student fee to the Developing Affordable Student Housing (DASH) Fund each semester?”

Moved by Sam

Seconded by Genna

Motion approved

Ahmad asked about the development planning time and that we won't see effects until after most of the ASU graduates

Sterling said that for a plan it makes sense, it is not their intention to make it not impact us.

Sam added that there are a lot of things to go through first, meetings to figure things out in order to start in September next year

Sterling spoke about the fact that an entire year is about \$3500 for the 10% for scholarships which is not a whole lot.

Sterling said that for housing development, 4 months is not a lot of time and that is pretty good

Archit left at 6:42

Emma said that \$3500 is actually pretty good, we do have to be transparent about this, how much we are giving out and what we are doing with it.

Council discussed the quorum needed for a referendum to pass. Sam said that movements that benefit students directly usually get the percentage, the problem is usually quorum and getting students to make a decision on it. It is about getting enough people to commit to saying yes and getting 15% to have a take on it

Emma said that this would go into a broader conversation of us as a student council, having less than 10% of students coming to the vote we need to work on getting more people out, must reach out and talk to people about it because the last referendum didn't meet quorum. This is something we need to work on to be sure that this passes and people are getting out and voting. Going into classrooms, having conversations with professors, students, societies, etc.

Ahmad asked if it gets approved now if it will be charged next semester.

It was confirmed they will be charged Fall 2025.

Genna and Julia left at 6:49.



Carmen left at 6:50.

Gretchen left at 7:03

8. In-Camera

BIRT council move in-camera at 7:03pm.

Moved by Sam

Seconded by Cyenna

Motion approved

SRC moved in Camera at 7:03pm

- a) Anti-Racism Campaign
- b) University Protest Policy

BIRT council move out of camera

Moved by Emma

Seconded by Sterling

Motion Approved

SRC moved out of Camera at 8:01pm

BIRT the SRC extend this meeting for a further 15 minutes until 8:15pm.

Moved by Emma

Seconded by Sterling

Motion approved

SRC members in attendance at time of motion: Sterling, Sam, Cyenna, Emma, Treyvon, Danielle and Yash

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM ADT.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: February 10, 2025. 5:30-7pm in the Beveridge Forum.