



Students' Representative Council - Meeting Minutes
April 7th, 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
Professional Studies Senator, Sophia Carpenter (voting) P
Councilor-at-large, Emma Boles (voting) P
Community Relations Representative, Cyenna Link (voting) P
Sustainability Representative, Carmen Peng (voting) P

Absences

Science Senator, Julia Shirokov (voting)
Councilor-at-large, Treyvon Nicolls (voting)

Resources

Chair of Council, Ben McCulley (non-voting) P
Vice-Chair of Council, Gretchen Archibald (non-voting) P

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM ADT.

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda and Previous Minutes



BIRT the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Cyenna

Seconded by Archit

Motion approved

BIRT the March 19th Meeting Minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by Sophia

Seconded by Cyenna

Motion approved

BIRT Treyvon Nicolls be excused from the March 19th SRC meeting.

Moved by Emma

Seconded by Zahide

Motion approved

4. Presentations

a) Executive Board Reports

Zahide gave a report on what she has done this year, including communications, recording videos for international snacks, and other content that was posted on the ASU socials. Zahide created most of the collaborative content for other student unions as well, along with updates about conferences with Yash and Sam. Zahide also organized events such as orientation week and other on campus events that involve the ASU. Zahide also supported other committees with social media presence and content creation. Volunteers are lacking outside of the ASU. Axes in Action was brought back. Zahide suggested we have more merch such as the Axes in Action magnets. Zahide highlighted specific events she helped to organize or was involved in throughout her time.

Sterling dealt with a lot of club engagement research, club conflict and working with the residence hall association. Sterling has suggested many ideas that will hopefully be passed along to next year's team. Sterling also highlighted other things such as developing an accessibility policy and other policy work, a provincial election "get out and vote" campaign, and a report on the state of healthcare at the university and the underlying issues that Sterling hopes will be passed along to next year's team.

Archit spoke about working through a lack of sponsorships and funding and coming up with ideas from scratch. Archit highlighted connecting with local businesses and presenting the ASU. Archit noted that he was able to bring in lots of sponsorships and support. Archit also spoke about connecting with the clubs and discussing whether they are getting the support and financial support that they need to continue to run effectively. Archit said he was hoping that he would be able to make people on campus more aware of financial literacy and while that was somewhat successful, he hopes it will be continued with next year's team. One highlight of this was the



financial literacy workshop. Archit also spoke about speaking with all the departments and making sure they were receiving the funds they need and using them effectively. Archit also spoke about working with the university admins in terms of finances and learning about what needs to be done moving forward.

Yash discussed his responsibilities, including being responsible for SRC and administration of the ASU. Yash said that the SRC was pretty efficient all year and was happy about the regular meeting time. Yash also discussed reviewing and approving the by-laws and policies going well. Yash mentioned the responsibility of learning his role within a week and becoming quickly involved in being an advocate for not only Acadia students, but also a federal advocate for students all over Canada. Yash mentioned learning how to speak to people professionally. Yash also attended SNS, and the CASA AGM. Looking forward Yash helped with planning transitions for new people to make their lives easier. Yash met regularly with the university president to discuss student issues and things on campus. Yash also sat on the Senate, the Governance committee, the university board, and many other ASU committees and sub-committees. Yash also acted as the Chair of the Exec board and was responsible for duties as outlined in the by-laws. The Exec board regularly met each week and discussed everything for the coming week, issues students had and anything else going on on-campus.

Sam spoke about CASA and Students NS and having good conversations with people within those conferences. Over the summer, Sam did a lot of the work with Mitch to get the by-law review underway. The by-law review still has some things to be worked on. The Strategic Plan was Sam's project over the summer and is now done. Sam has also been talking with a lot of people about the protest policy and how to move forward with that. Sam has been doing regular meetings with Ashley with check-ins including concerns of academic matters, zero-tolerance policies and trying to get a statement out for the end of the year that includes a zero-tolerance statement. Sam has done a lot of research in the summer about AI and is trying to pull it together for a formal meeting with the university members to address AI and try to start having more formal conversations about taking a stand on it or making a formal AI policy. Sam also dealt with Academic Appeals over the year (3 rounds). Sam said that there were other curriculum changes and Senate committee business that they were part of but did not give specific details.

Emma asked Archit and Yash about their confidentiality when it came to the types of meetings they were part of and addressing transparency within the University.

Archit said things were confidential because they did not have a specific or set answer about the decision and the decisions were not made. Archit said they had to come up with proper information and a proper update before releasing any information about upcoming issues or budget information. Archit said they did not want to provide information to students which might not be true later on. They were planning to be transparent as soon as a solid decision was made.

Yash agreed with Archit and reiterated that they had not decided at that time, and the threat of a spread of information for something that had not been decided on yet would have been unprofessional and would potentially cause anxiety within the student body.



Zahide mentioned that she realized personally that it is important to maintain a relationship with the admins and know when it is the SRC's place to share things and when it's the admin's place to share things. The threat of misinformation being shared with students would not only make it look like the SRC makes decisions that the admins make, but the information may not be finalized, and we would not have the answers to possible questions.

Archit added that by sharing information with the students, the information can be changed into something else and can spread quickly. Archit reiterated that it was not the SRC's place to share this information as it was a decision made by the admin. Archit discussed trying to find the best route for sharing information to reduce the damage.

Emma asked how we ensure that the university are the ones who have to be transparent and are sharing things with the students.

Archit said that the university and the admins are understanding and are learning how to share the news with the students in a positive way and are looking more to connect with the students through workshops and other strategies.

Sterling mentioned that in relation to the protest policy the lack of transparency was a frustration that was discussed. Sterling noted a broader conversation is needed regarding transparency.

Sam added that from an us to the university standpoint, the best way to combat this is to sit down and create some formal positions (for example having a clinic on campus) and non-negotiables as a team. In terms of students as a wider population not being aware of what the university is doing but we are, that is something an Exec team would have to take on, to summarize what the university is discussing and find a way to communicate it to the students.

Emma mentioned asking this in particular because of Bill-C12 and is hoping to think of this as an Exec board for next year.

Sam arrived at 6:07pm

5. Standing Items

b) Committee Chairs

Archit said that the past few days have been hectic because they have been going through the budget and make some changes to keep the departments running and motivating them to keep performing well. Archit said they were able to approve the budget, and it will be presented to the SRC soon. Archit also said they were able to approve funding for clubs.

Zahide said that Events and Promotions committee met to determine leadership awards, they determined all the awards they could, and Zahide is coming up with a new design for the certificates.

Ben said the Governance committee met and were able to propose two policy amendments. Review board will be meeting next week to confirm honoraria, and Nominating committee will meet ASAP.



a) President

Yash discussed the SNS conference and the AGM for CASA. Yash said last week that he, Zahide, Sterling and Sam went to the SNS conference. After that Yash attended the CASA AGM and looked at a lot of CASA's internal documents and looked at future changes. Yash also said they approved the budget for CASA and added some new members and planned for the next AGM and conference that will happen. Yash met with the FAC and approved the budget as well.

c) Chair of Council

Ben said that he would cover most of his updates later in the agenda.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

For Discussion

a) Federal Election Update

Ben spoke about having a vote on campus station from April 13-16, open to any eligible voter but focused on students.

Sophia asked if it was only for Nova Scotia or if we could vote for anywhere in the country.

Ben said each ballot gets sent to Ottawa and you can vote for anywhere in the country.

Emma asked if we have an NDP candidate yet.

Ben said he was nominated the other day, there will be a candidate for all 5 parties.

Zahide asked about voting in the SUB.

Ben said on regular election day (April 28), anyone who lives on campus can vote in the SUB.

This is specific to students who live on campus.

Cyenna asked when they may hear about working the advance polls.

Ben said hopefully soon, he will ask. Ben said anyone who is a Canadian citizen and over the age of 16 can work a poll.

Archit asked what the job is about.

Ben highlighted the different roles of poll workers and noted there are a few pamphlets in the Michener Lounge.

For Decision

a) Governance Policy Proposals

i) Executive Policy

Zahide proposed adding something about how the money from the vacant position will be used or divided if someone is hired to fulfill specific parts of the position. Zahide mentioned making it a percentage.

Sterling suggested leaving it up to the Exec board or Review board and on a case-by-case basis.



Archit discussed that we might be limiting ourselves for the future if we put something specific in the policy and we cannot change it or adjust it to the situation.

Archit suggested that since we would know by the end of the election if there were a vacancy, could we start looking for someone to fulfill the role, could we start looking in April for someone to fill the role.

Zahide said that we shouldn't specify.

BIRT the SRC adopt the Executive Policy as amended.

Moved by Archit

Seconded by Yash

Motion approved

BIRT the SRC extend this council meeting by one hour.

Moved by Zahide

Seconded by Sterling

Motion approved

Meeting extended to 8pm.

ii) Internal Organizations Policy

BIRT the SRC amend the Internal Organizations Policy as proposed.

Moved by Sterling

Seconded by Zahide

Motion approved

b) Board of Governors Appointment (Bylaw 3, Article 9b)

BIRT the SRC appoint Elizabeth Bettenson to the Acadia University Board of Governors effective May 1st, 2025.

Moved by Emma

Seconded by Sterling

Motion approved

c) Hiring Recommendations

Nominating committee has not been able to meet yet so this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

BIRT the SRC table this item until its next meeting.

Moved by Yash

Seconded by Sophia

Motion approved

d) 2025-2026 Budget



Carmen and Genna left at 7:40pm.

After discussion and questions surrounding the budget, council felt this item should be tabled until its next meeting.

BIRT the SRC table this item until its next meeting.

Moved by Yash

Seconded by Sophia

Motion approved

8. In-Camera

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

BIRT the SRC move to adjourn.

Moved by Yash

Seconded by Sophia

Motion approved

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM ADT.

Next Meeting Scheduled for: TBD



Executive Board

Oversight Body: Review Board

Date Updated: April 7th, 2025

Related Documents: Signing Authority Policy, Bylaw 3 Article 5, Bylaw 4 Article 1

Definitions

Signing Officer	An Executive or designated full-time staff member vested with the authority to sign official documents or orders, particularly in respect to payments, purchases, and contracts.
Business Day	A day on which the University is open and in session, not including any Saturday, Sunday, or statutory holiday in the province of Nova Scotia.
Incoming Executive Officer	A member elected to an Executive Officer role who has not yet taken office.
Presidential Alternate	an Executive Officer selected by majority vote at the first meeting of the Executive Board who will temporarily assume the responsibilities of President in the event of their absence.

Purpose

In addition to those Executive responsibilities outlined in bylaw 3, and Executive Board terms in bylaw 4, this policy serves to further outline authorities, expectations, recognitions, and obligations of Executive Officers as a whole and individually.

Scope

The following terms apply to all Executive Officer positions.

Statement

1. Eligibility

1.1 No Member shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same

Executive Officer position.

1.2 Executive Officers must be current members of the ASU.

2. Order of Authority

2.1 All decisions of the Executive Board must be consistent with ASU bylaws, policies, and directives from SRC.

2.2 During the daily administrative operations of the ASU, the President has the authority to direct Executive Officers according to bylaws and policies of the ASU. However, the President cannot direct the Vice-President, Finance & Operations or General Manager to utilize their signing authority, unless directed by the SRC.

2.3 Should any Executive Officer become aware of a violation of bylaws and/or policies, they are to bring it to the attention of the President or in the case it is in respect to the President, to the SRC Chairperson if the breach is not rectified within ten (10) business days.

2.4 In the event that a Full-time Staff member is directed to violate any part of the bylaws and/or policies, they are obligated to refuse to follow the directive and bring the incident to the attention of the General Manager. In the event the direction is given by the General Manager, the staff member should bring the issue to the attention of the President.

3. Meetings

3.1 There shall be at least one meeting of the Executive Board per week, chaired and scheduled by the President. In the absence of the President, the Presidential Alternate shall serve as chair.

3.2 All members of the Executive Board must have the opportunity to vote on decisions to enter into contracts and formal agreements.

3.3 While respectful debate is considered healthy and encouraged, decisions of the Executive Board are binding on all members of the Executive. Decisions under the purview of the Executive Board and within the bylaws and/or policies must be respected.

4. Honorarium

4.1 Executive Officers are elected members and, therefore, not employees of the ASU. Each Executive Officer is accorded an honorarium amount in recognition of their contributions on a bi-weekly basis.

4.2 Executive Officer honorariums may only be adjusted by the SRC for the ensuing fiscal year or following a performance review with recommendations by the Review Board.

4.2.1 Executive Officer performance assessments will include the following criteria:

4.2.1.1 Meets regularly with their committees and submits meeting minutes to the SRC Chairperson.

4.2.1.2 Has submitted a report to the Review Board specifying how they have met their obligations in accordance with bylaws, policies, and any SRC resolutions.

4.2.1.3 Has acted in accordance with their oath and fiduciary duties.

4.2.2 Should the Review Board determine an Executive Officer has not met expectations, they may submit a recommendation to the SRC Chairperson that their honorarium be reduced or suspended until they have demonstrated improvement.

4.2.2.1 The Review Board will meet monthly for a reassessment of the Executive Officer's reduction or suspension until it is fully restored, or a newly elected member assumes the position.

4.3 Annual honorarium amounts according to position are:

4.3.1 President – \$21,644

4.3.2 Vice President, Academic & External – \$17,444

4.3.3 Vice President, Finance & Operations – \$17,444

4.3.4 Vice President, Student Life – \$17,444

4.3.5 Vice President, Events & Promotions –\$17,444

4.4 Executive Officers will receive 57% of their total honorarium in the Summer Term.

5. Leave

5.1 Each member of the Executive Board is entitled to 10 business days of leave from their role as an Executive Officer, in addition to those holidays as outlined in the ASU staff handbook.

5.2 Requests for leave will be submitted in writing to the President who shall determine whether the requested leave would significantly interfere with operations. In respect to those requests made by the President, they will be submitted to the SRC Chairperson for approval. Essential tasks that must be performed during such leave shall be delegated to other Executive Officers through consultation between the Executive Officers and General Manager. The dates of any approved leave shall be relayed to the Chair of the Review Committee, or in the event the Review Committee has yet to be formed, the SRC Chairperson.

5.3 Leave due to illness will be granted for up to 10 business days at which time the President may request a medical note be submitted indicating a timeline for return and any necessary accommodations. In the case of the President requiring leave,

the SRC Chairperson may request the appropriate documentation. The dates of any approved leave shall be relayed to the Chair of the Review Committee, or in the event the Review Committee has yet to be formed, the SRC Chairperson.

6. Office Hours and Course Load

6.1 The President will hold a minimum of 20 regular office hours per week during the academic year and take no more than three courses, including correspondence courses, in each of the fall and winter semesters.

6.2 From May 1 to August 31, the President shall commit at least 37.5 hours per week (Monday to Friday) to the duties of the Office of President and may take no more than two intersession courses. The Executive may approve up to one additional course to be taken in this period.

6.3 All other Executive Board members will hold a minimum of 15 regular office hours per week during the academic year and take no more than four courses, including correspondence courses, in each of the fall and winter semester.

6.4 From May 1 to August 31, all other Executive Board members shall commit at least 37.5 hours per week (Monday to Friday) to the duties of their Office and will take no more than three intersession courses.

7. Executive Goals

7.1 Upon taking office, members of the Executive Board shall develop individual and collective goals for the year in collaboration with one another and the General Manager and in accordance with any adopted ASU Strategic Plan.

7.2 At the first meeting of the SRC in September, the Executive Board shall present their individual and collective goals for the year.

7.3 A summary of Executive Officer goals must be posted on the ASU website after ratification by the SRC.

8. Transition Period

8.1 The transition period commences once the General Election results are official.

8.2 The incoming Executive Board may be provided with temporary office space until they take office.

8.3 Beginning no later than April 1st, the transition period shall include:

8.3.1 One weekly meeting between the outgoing and incoming Executive Board.

8.3.2 At least one weekly meeting between the respective outgoing and incoming Executive Officers.

8.4 Each member of the Executive Board is obligated to orient their successor during the transition period.

8.5 Each incoming member of the Executive Board is obligated to complete the Transition Checklist contained in their Executive Orientation Guide.

8.5.1 The President will confirm at the first Executive Board meeting in May that all completed Transition Checklists and outgoing transition reports have been received and are satisfactory.

8.6 Each incoming member of the Executive Board is obligated to attend the annual transition retreats or to make alternate arrangements with the Executive Board in the event they are unable to attend. The transition retreats shall be organized by the outgoing President in consultation with the General Manager.

8.7 The ASU shall withhold the final honorarium installment of each outgoing Executive Officer until the following conditions have been met:

8.7.1 The outgoing Executive Transition Report has been completed and submitted to their successor;

8.7.2 Any accounts and equipment considered the property of the Executive position is provided to the appropriate incoming Executive Officer;

9. Performance Expectations

9.1 In carrying out their duties, all Executive Officers are expected to fulfill the expectations laid out in bylaws and policies and to act in good faith as the official officers of the ASU.

9.2 Further to the duties mandated by bylaws and policies, all members of the Executive Board are expected to actively communicate and collaborate with one another in a respectful and productive manner.

10. Executive Vacancy

10.1 In the event that an executive position is vacant or becomes vacant after May 1st through the first day of classes Executive Board will take the following steps to ensure responsibilities within that portfolio are being covered:

10.1.1 Will divide the tasks in a reasonable manner among the current group of executives

10.1.2 In the event that an executive position is vacant for the summer the executive may at their discretion hire a student in a nonvoting capacity to perform one or more of the roles and responsibilities of that position.

10.1.3 Dispersal of the unused Executive honoraria will be decided by the Review Board.



Internal Organization Policy

Oversight: Vice-President Student Life

Date passed: April 7th, 2025

Date of next review: TBD

Related Documents: IO Constitutions

Definitions

Internal Organization (IO) – a department of the ASU overseen by an appointed student and functions as outlined in this document.

Purpose

- (a) Provide clarity regarding the ASU's relationship with its Internal Organizations;
- (b) Outline the criteria to be recognized as an Internal Organization with the ASU.

Scope:

All ASU officials and those members participating in IO operations.

Statement:

1. The official Internal Organizations of the Union must meet the following criteria:
 - 1.1. They will benefit all or a significant portion of the student population.
 - 1.2. The Financial Affairs Committee will have ratified the existence of these organizations through a two-thirds vote and will approve their budgets each year.
 - 1.3. The mandate of these organizations will include one or more of the following:
 - 1.3.1 Peer support.
 - 1.3.2 Promotion of equality of opportunity and treatment among groups on campus.
 - 1.3.3 Inter-student communication.

1.3.4 Student education.

2. An Internal Organization will only be granted this status if they cannot provide the above benefits as a club.

3. The Internal Organizations of the Acadia Students Union are:

Acadia Pride
Axe Radio
Community Outreach
The Athenaeum
The Axe Yearbook
The Mental Health Society
The Women's Centre
Food Cupboard

4. Internal Organizations are governed by the following stipulations:

4.1. Hiring for coordinators is conducted by the outgoing Vice President Student Life, incoming Vice President Student Life (non-voting), and campus engagement manager. If deemed necessary, this group may ask anybody else to aide in the interview process with or without vote.

4.1.1. The hiring of the Editor-in-Chief of *The Athenaeum* shall be conducted by *The Athenaeum* Publishing Board, as outlined in *The Athenaeum* Constitution, in conjunction with the incoming Vice President Student Life (with vote).

4.1.2. The removal of the Editor-in-Chief shall be done by *The Athenaeum* Publishing Board, in conjunction with the Vice President Student Life (with vote).

4.2. The coordinator/editor/executive of an Internal Organization is eligible to receive an honorarium.

4.3. Internal Organizations shall submit budgets to the Vice President Student life or campus engagement manager at their request and are responsible for keeping a complete and accurate account of all transactions, which shall be submitted to the S.R.C. or the Executive Board upon request.

5. IO coordinators shall provide semesterly reports to the ASU.

6. Any Internal Organization Coordinator, except for the Editor-in-Chief of *The Athenaeum*, may be removed from their position by the Review Board if a recommendation is made by the appropriate Vice President and relevant standing committee,

6.1. This decision may be overturned by the S.R.C. through a two-thirds majority vote.

7. The Union shall not exercise any editorial control over the content of *The Athenaeum*.

8. All IO coordinators must review their IO constitution in the summer prior to their term

9. All IO coordinators must attend IO coordinator training unless otherwise permitted by the Campus engagement manager.