



Students' Representative Council - Meeting Minutes
January 29th, 2024
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, Sadie McAlear (voting) P
Vice-President Events and Promotions, Sam Taylor (voting) P
Vice-President Student Life, Genna Beed (voting) P
Arts Senator, Isabel Drouin (voting) P
Science Senator, Julia Shirokov (voting) P
Graduate Studies Senator, Alexandria Delaney (voting) P
Councilor-at-large, Axel Escholz (voting) P
Councilor-at-large, Zainab Abdulraheem (voting) P
First-year Representative, Emma Boles (voting) P

Regrets

Vice-President Academic and External Affairs, Ben Morris (voting)
Vice-President Finance and Operations, Bradley Thibeau (voting)

Resources

Chair of Council, Ben McCulley (non-voting) P
Vice-Chair of Council, Esther Uhlman (non-voting) P

Guest

Kirsten Lawrence, Enactus Acadia President P

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM AST.



2. Adoption of Agenda and Previous Minutes

BIRT the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Emma

Seconded by Sam Taylor

Motion Approved

BIRT the agenda be amended to include the Food Sharing Council Presentation.

Moved by Genna

Seconded by Isabel

Motion Approved

BIRT the January 15th Meeting Minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by Genna

Seconded by Isabelle

Motion Approved

3. Presentations

a. January Executive Members Report:

Genna explained that the student life committee will be meeting this week to help the education society ratify. She has also had a lot of interest in upcoming election. Has been working with university on accessibility.

Sam explained that he is working on general programming. Working with Brent from residence life on project for student alimics. Maybe planning game show weekend as well. Working on transition for new person who takes over his role in future.

b. Food Sharing Council Presentation

A representative from the food sharing program gave presentation. She explained that she has been working on referendum to get referendum question to get money for program. This is one year initiative with help from Lunch Box fund. Is hoping to start doing weekly meals starting next week continuing for the upcoming year. She had also been selling leftovers for a pay as you can amount (1 to 6 dollars). Looking for 7 dollars from each student for a year or 3.50 per semester. Would like to hire 2 part time workers to help with this.

Sadie explained that there is lots of support on campus for food sharing initiative. She said that referendum question would have to ask students if they want to give 7 dollars each to the program for the 2024-2025 academic year. Council needs to discuss this to work on drafting question for this.



Axel asked if this question is only for 2024-2025 academic year. Sadie affirmed that this is her understanding of the situation. Axel said that he is not sure what students are willing to pay, but most students are going to oppose increasing own fees.

Sadie asked if anyone has further comments or questions on initiative. Emma explained that most students would be willing to pay for this program, but there would need to be further publicization about this. Isabelle said that she is very supportive of initiative but agrees with Emma. Mentioned possible advertising with posters or something like this. The students must be made aware. Axel agrees with Isabelle's point but raises concerns surrounding election rules around campaigning for referendum, and whether or not the ASU can be involved in campaigning for a referendum. Sadie said that she does not see this as an issue, but this can be addressed at a later date so long as it is addressed before the referendum period.

BIRT the Students' Representative Council recess for 5 minutes at 8:01pm AST.

Moved by Sadie

Seconded by Isabel

Motion Approved

Meeting called back to order at 8:06pm AST.

BIRT the Students' Representative Council approve the following referendum question for the 2024 General Election: Should your Student Union membership fee have a one time increase, at the cost of \$7.00 per student, to fund the Acadia Food Sharing Program for the 2024-2025 academic year?

Moved by Sadie

Seconded by Emma

Motion Approved.

4. Standing Items

a) Committee Chairs

Ben McCulley said that election committee met. Governance committee met last Friday. Was very productive, and the committee will meet by-weekly from now on.

b) President

Sadie said that things have been functioning as usual. She is continuing for finalize a draft of the Strategic Plan for ASU. She will bring this to the ASU following the general election. She also explained that last Thursday she began CASA copyright campaign at meal hall with Emma. This initiative was successful and student engagement was great. She would like to set up in BAC soon to continue. Today we reviewed great news from the federal government about low cost loans from federal government to build student housing, on and off campus. This is a great development which she has been advocating for. She



mentioned that the financial affairs committee met. She outlined discussion in governance about gap in responsibility in some of executive's portfolios due to change in duties overtime. She mentioned that we have one full-time person dedicated to staff and promotion. This is big role which cannot be comfortably handled by VP of events and promotions. Role of staff and promotion was supposed to integrate into VP student life portfolio in one year. It would be beneficial to integrate positions into a VP student experience. Would change from 5 to 4 executive positions.

Genna explained that the bulk of the work which she has done in her position is tasks that she has had to dig and find. She would support this move to combine the 2 roles.

Ben McCulley brought up concerns with By-Laws about committee roles of 2 different portfolios which are being combined and the timeline for doing this. Sadie mentioned that this would not be addressed unless the referendum passes.

BIRT the Students' Representative Council approve the following referendum question for the 2024 General Election: Should the Student Union combine the roles of Vice President Student Life and Vice President Events and Promotions beginning in the 2025-2026 Academic Year?

Moved by Genna
Seconded by Zainab
Motion Approved.

c) Chair of Council

Ben McCulley said that he has nothing specific to report. He has been trying to schedule by-weekly council meetings but members of council have very different availabilities so it might not be feasible this year.

5. Unfinished Business

a. RHA Referendum Question

The governance met and discussed this last Friday. Ben McCulley said that the governance committee confirmed that it would be irresponsible to have RHA referendum question due to issues with distribution, and other concerns. The governance committee recommends that the ASU does not approve the RHA referendum question.

Axel reiterated issues with RHA including RHA constitutions, and issues with if the RHA is club or association and governance of group and the use of student money in regard to this. It would be ideal to work on residence life issues with the RHA and Residence Life. Julia agrees with Axel's points. The RHA needs more structure, before a referendum question is possible.



BIRT the Students' Representative Council deny the request of a referendum question for the Residence Hall Association.

Moved by Sadie

Seconded by Axel

Motion Approved

Graduate Studies Councillor abstained.

6. New Business

For Discussion

- a) Theology Senator Resignation

Ben McCulley informed council that the Theology Senator has sent a resignation letter. Her resignation is official once received by the Chair. Ben read her resignation letter to Council and there was no further discussion.

For Decision

- a)

7. In-Camera

Members seeking re-election left the meeting at this time.

- a. 2024 Winter General Election Update

BIRT the Students' Representative Council move into closed session.

Moved by Sadie

Seconded by Axel

Motion Approved

BIRT the Students' Representative Council move out of closed session.

Moved by Axel

Seconded by Isabel

Motion Approved

8. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM AST.