



Student Union of NSCAD  
D250, 5163 Duke Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3J6  
February 12, 2021

## Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Kris, Jacey, Raquel, Elyssa, Emily, Ivan, Sophia, Oliver

Absent: Sam

Regrets:

Chair: Laura

Secretary: Nicole

Call to order 4:35 PM.

Elyssa motions to approve the agenda. Kris seconds. All in favour.

Laura begins the meeting by recognizing we are situated on unceded and unsundered Mi'kmaq territory, which is covered under the Peace and Friendship Treaties since 1725. It is our responsibility to understand our relationship with the land as stewards, arrivants, and settlers.

Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_ President

Resource Coordinator

## Reports:

**Kris Reppas**, He/Him // President // [president@sunscad.org](mailto:president@sunscad.org)

**Jacey Byrne**, They/Them // VP Equity and Finance // [equity@sunscad.org](mailto:equity@sunscad.org)

**Raquel Silva**, She/Her // VP Academic // [academic@sunscad.org](mailto:academic@sunscad.org)

**Elyssa Ballard**, She/Her // Member at Large // [memberatlarge@sunscad.org](mailto:memberatlarge@sunscad.org)

**Emily Davidson**, She/Her // MFA Representative // [mfarep@sunscad.org](mailto:mfarep@sunscad.org)

**Ivan Flores**, He/Him // Racialized Representative // [racializedrep@sunscad.org](mailto:racializedrep@sunscad.org)

**Sophia Fortuna**, She/her // International Representative // [internationalrep@sunscad.org](mailto:internationalrep@sunscad.org)

**Oliver Oldfield**, He/They // 2SLGBTQIA+ Rep // [2slgbtqiarep@sunscad.org](mailto:2slgbtqiarep@sunscad.org)

## Agenda:

- **Call for Foodbank Volunteers**
- **Election Nominations Update**
- **Student Concern [Re: Online Course Description]**

## General Discussion:

### New Business

- **Emily** wants to address a concern for her MFA cohort. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many second year MFA students will have to extend their period of study past the 24 months of study. Emily wants to write a letter to the administration asking to waive the continuance fee for students who will not be able to graduate on time. Karin Cope reported to Emily that she had attended a meeting with a senior management team, but has nothing to report back. Emily is hoping to co-sign a letter with the SUNSCAD Executive addressing this matter.
- **Kris** thanked Emily for bringing this forward and would be glad to support that letter.
- **Jacey** mentioned that they attended a Foodbank meeting today and a Board meeting yesterday and announced that there will be some changes to the way Foodbank is operated in the future.

## Foodbank Volunteers:

- Kris
  - Is in the process for getting the Foodbank Volunteers functioning.
  - The Volunteers will be at the Foodbank on Mondays from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Fridays from 12:00 - 4:00 PM.
  - Asks the council if anyone other than Sophia would like to volunteer. The assistance would be greatly appreciated.

## Election Nominations Update:

- Kris
  - Nominations open on the 15th of February.
  - Alexandra, the CRO, will be sending out an email.
  - Is giving the heads up to any Council members who would like to join next year's Executive Committee.
  - Anyone who is interested in running would need to develop a platform on what changes you'd like to see changed for next year.
- Jacey

- In past elections, candidates were to create ten posters which were to then be displayed at each campus.
- Kris
  - No posters are necessary for campus display this year due to Covid-19.
  - Will speak with Martine re: reaching out to faculty to see if candidates can have a few minutes at the beginning of class time.
  - Alexandra will handle the social media postings.
    - If anyone would like a personal post, you must communicate this with Alexandra.
- Raquel
  - Suggests putting a poster on the SUNSCAD Instagram page.
- Elyssa
  - Attests that it doesn't even have to be a poster, but possibly a blurb.
- Kris
  - Agrees with Raquel that individual posters would be great, and encourages this. ○ Nonetheless, everything must be sent back to Alexandra.
  - Would also have to send out emails because he has the permission to do so through the Discord Server.
- Emily
  - Addresses the purpose of the poster vs. an online format is that it encourages individual candidates to put their message where everyone can see it.
  - Since designing and putting up posters is a requirement for candidates and serves as a baseline for showing up to the campaign, there is an alternate solution.
  - If candidates submit a 6x6 JPEG poster, that the CRO can post on their behalf, it would provide students with a better understanding of where the candidates stand.
  - Thinks that submitting promotional material is a good idea beyond simply filling out the nomination form.
- Kris
  - Since students are not on campus, putting up posters would be an extra financial burden.
  - The online graphics are a good idea, but it is up to the CRO.
  - There will be a forum in which the candidates will be permitted to introduce themselves. Although this will be "virtual" classroom time, the CRO will try to do the best they can.
- Jacey
  - Posting digital items on social media is not a financial burden and helps us show the date of the election.
  - Think it is a good idea for candidates to submit a 300dpi 5x5 square poster. ○ This is both simple and designing campaign posters is in the bylaws.

## **Student Concern [re: Online Course Descriptions]:**

- Sophia
  - An International student had brought a concern to her attention.
  - First and Second year jewellery students have an excessive financial obligation to purchase equipment necessary for course completion.
  - The Jewelry Course description does not make students aware of this fiscal burden.
  - The expected costs in supplies for this single course is around \$1000.
  - The International student in question didn't speak up in fear of compromising their international student status.
  - Is there someone to email re: warning students of expensive costs associated with said course?
  
- Oliver
  - Wants to echo this concern for other courses such as Drawing and Craft courses. ○ Any of the Material Explorations courses which combine three courses into one, have necessary supplies with excessive costs.
  - Thinks there should be a standard set for most of the NSCAD courses to make students aware of unexpected material/supply costs.
  
- Jacey
  - Moving forward, there should be a prospective provided to students so they are aware of the expected costs of materials.
  
- Ivan
  - His new Communications job at NSCAD deals with course descriptions and he can be of assistance with putting in an official request.
  
- Emily
  - There should be "official material fees" included with course descriptions. ○ If costs cannot be added when courses are developed, then "invisible" fees are assumed.
  - Administration must consider a smooth process to add these invisible fees to course descriptions.
  - However, this process must be handled tactfully in order to bring faculty members on board. It must be conceptualized holistically.
  - The estimated fees must take into account where the student is actually located. For example, not everyone may be living next to a DeSerres Art Store and might need to order everything online and pay additional shipping costs.
  
- Nicole
  - Mentioned that she was provided with a two-page list of supplies and associated costs prior to taking any courses during her Foundation year at NBCCD in Fredericton. Thinks that NSCAD should do the same.
  
- Jacey
  - Administration should be contacting staff before the year starts and Professors should

have prices for the materials listed. This information should be listed in the course description before students are able to register for any courses.

- There should be a warning on the course description so that students know whether or not they can afford the material costs before the course drop date.
  - Students should also be made aware that they are permitted to email professors about expected spending costs prior to the course start date.
  - There was a committee - either Teaching & Learning or Senate - in which students had the opportunity to bring forth talking points to the Board which, in turn, the Board would address within a few months.
  - We can work on this matter together.
  - Everyone must be transparent with students.
  - Students were able to borrow equipment last Winter term but do not know whether this privilege is still available.
  - We should bring this matter forward and it should be addressed quickly.
- Raquel
    - This should be an alteration made to all courses. It should be a single sentence and a simple fix which can be done quickly.
    - For example, the sentence should read: “This course requires you to spend \$500+”
    - First the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee should be made aware and then the Senate.
    - This is a quick change and not a slow process.
- Elyssa
    - Thinks what Raquel said is really good.
    - Emailing people is a good idea.
    - The amount of information on a course description is extremely limited and sometimes the Professor’s name isn’t even listed.
- Laura
    - This is especially important with International students incurring extra unplanned costs with currency conversions.
- Kris
    - Suggests scheduling a “working meeting” to address this matter.
- Jacey
    - Suggests inviting Sophia to the working meeting so that the Executive has a complete understanding of the International student concern and there isn’t a disconnect.

## Recaps:

- Jacey:
  - Clean Foodbank this Saturday February 13.
  - Prepare for the upcoming “working meeting.”
  - Respond to Oliver re: The Pronoun Email.
  
- Emily:
  - Write a draft email correspondence to be sent to senior administration reiterating the request to remove the continuance fee for MFA students.
  - Will send a copy of this draft email to Kris for review.
  
- Raquel:
  - Continue reading through the bylaws re: Bursary items.
  - Attend next week's “working meeting.”
  
- Sophia:
  - Attend next week's “working meeting.”
- Ivan:
  - Continue working on events related to Black History Month.
  - Will offer assistance to Council & Executive SUNSCAD members re: addressing the “course description” concerns.
  
- Kris:
  - Assist Jacey with the Foodbank.
  - Schedule a “working meeting” for the Executive Council.
  - Edit Emily’s draft re: removing the continuance fee for MFA students.
  
- Oliver:
  - Work on the Trans. Resource pamphlet.
  - Hang around the Discord.
  
- Elyssa:
  - Help with the Discord.
  - Post school events every Sunday.

**Raquel motions to adjourn. Elyssa seconds. All in favour.**

Meeting adjourns at 5:20 PM.