



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

February 26, 2021

Council Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: Ada

Regrets:

Chair: Laura

Secretary: Nicole

Call to order 4:38 PM.

Jacey motions to approve the agenda. Kris seconds. All in favor.

Laura begins the meeting by recognizing we are situated on unceded and unsurrendered 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

Present/Reports:

Kris Reppas, He/Him // President // president@sunscad.org

Jacey Byrne, They/Them // VP Equity and Finance // equity@sunscad.org

Raquel Silva, She/Her // VP Academic // academic@sunscad.org

Sam Shaffelburg, She/Her // VP External // external@sunscad.org

Elyssa Ballard, She/Her // Member at Large // memberatlarge@sunscad.org

Emily Davidson, She/Her // MFA Representative // mfarep@sunscad.org

- [MFA Rep February 26 Report](#)

Ivan Flores, He/Him // Racialized Representative // racializedrep@sunscad.org

Sophia Fortuna, She/her // International Representative // internationalrep@sunscad.org

Oliver Oldfield, He/They // 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative // 2slgbtqiarep@sunscad.org

Laura Lima Nishida, She/Her // Chairperson // chairperson@sunscad.org

Nicole Maggio, She/Her // Secretary // secretary@sunscad.org

Agenda:

- **MFA Student with Disabilities Issues Raised**
- **Possible addition of Legal Assistance to Greenshield**
- **National and Provincial Lobby Week Updates**
- **SUNSCAD Elections Update**
- **Discussion of EDI Topic Questions for the Board of Governors training session**

MFA Student with Disabilities Issues Raised:

- Emily
 - Met with a student who has systemic issues of ableism at NSCAD
 - The system is discriminatory to students with disabilities, particularly with regards to their inability to put in more than the 40% course load standard
 - Holistic issues mentioned; problem solving is put on the shoulders of the students with disabilities
 - NSCAD needs to design courses and teaching from an accessible outlet

- There is a culture of blaming students with disabilities
 - NSCAD needs to have more of a foundation
 - MFA studio allocation - unequal to access needs; students with disabilities need accessibility to different spaces
 - Hopes to flag the council with what these issues are and try to take things to the next level
 - Students with disabilities cannot be left to deal with these issues on their own
 - Hopes to have a discussion about what is already happening, what can we tap into in continuing next year's executive
 - Has this been brought forward to senior management? Can we send a document to administration? What are the next steps?
- Jacey
 - This is a tough question to answer.
 - Have been working with accessibility on a per student basis.
 - Believes that there needs to be a change to system that makes everything accessible; needs to be changed in a bylaw or committee to put into resolution at next AGM; take a statement adjacent to a motion to make NSCAD more accessible.
 - Suggests a planning committee to help Jacey with a motion to streamline which can then be brought in to the Senate to approve
 - Jacey is willing to work together with Emily on this letter
- Kris
 - This hasn't been a priority but something needed to work on moving forward;
 - Suggests striking an accessibility committee – what are the channels; access to studios needs to be outlined – we can do that on our own; if you have a studio in the Port campus this is where the bus lets off etc.;
 - Let's start a committee and dedicate time and get the ball moving
- Raquel
 - Agrees with Kris
 - Starting a committee is necessary to create the solutions needed
 - Can head the committee and then set up weekly meeting time to see who is interested

Raquel motions to start committee; Emily seconds; no objections

Possible Addition of Legal Assistance to Greenshield:

- Kris
 - Greenshield currently has:
 - Change4Life
 - Mindfulness - new program
 - Mind Beacon - unlimited virtual access to a therapist for 12 weeks; short

- term plan
 - Meet Coach Ian
 - Phzio
 - There is a new addition that we could put into the health plan:
 - Free consultation to legal assistance (landlord, employment issues)
 - Discounts to legal service
 - 4.17% added to the current health plan cost
 - No referendum is needed since it is under a 10% increase.
- Emily
 - That sounds like a great idea since it acknowledges that students are “whole persons”
 - The premium is quite low and the value is worth adding
- Raquel
 - Agrees with Emily. It isn't too pricey.
- Jacey
 - There are other pro-bono organizations already available to students:
 - Dalhousie Legal Aid service
 - Halifax Refugee Clinic
 - Court of Appeal Judicial
 - Non-profit organizations
 - There may be others
 - Health fees already increased last year and there may already be a similar program that exists.
 - Postpone the vote until the next council meeting so that he can confirm with Tara ■
 - Is it free consultation?
 - If a local lawyer then do students get a discount?
 - Is not convinced that it is something students need if there are already free programs out there.
- Kris
 - Suggests postponing a decision until the next council meeting. He would like to confirm the exact monetary increase and would like to research what other free legal advice services are available to students in the area. All in favour.

National Provincial Lobby Week Update:

- Kris and Sam
 - Last week was National Lobby Week.
 - This week is Provincial CFS.
 - 10 Recommendations were put forward to various MLA's in Nova Scotia, Kris lists a few of the ones presented.

- Overall went very well. Come time of legislation, we will see if that was received.

SUNSCAD Elections Update:

- Kris
 - Nominations are in:
 - Laura - President
 - Nicole - VP Academic
 - Hannah Craig - VP Internal
 - Liz Graham - VP External
 - Courtney Green - International Representative
 - Oliver - 2SLGBTQIA+ Rep
 - More class talks happening in the next two weeks.
 - Elections Forum from 11am-12pm on March 5.
 - Voting will take place online: March 10, 11, 12

Discussion of EDI Topic Questions for the Board of Governors Training Session:

- Jacey:
 - Equity & Diversity Issue in which they sent out an email re: thoughts on questions/topics:
 - What do you think of University life in general and how is your experience?
 - What gaps are there for welcoming faculty?
 - How do we determine what are the gaps?
 - Who do we currently ask and do not ask?
 - Gaps in diversity at NSCAD?
 - Any thoughts - please call me later this week.

Kris motions to adjourn. Raquel seconds. All in favour.

Meeting adjourns at 5:34 PM.