



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: March 13, 2024

Present: Alexandra, Mohammed, Owen, Prabnoor, Kalani, Karina

Regrets: Deirdre (gave proxy to Owen), Mohammed (left at ~7 pm, gave proxy to Prabnoor)

Absent: Chris

Chair: Kalani

Secretary: Karina

Kalani calls the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

Kalani begins the meeting by acknowledging we are in Mi'kma'ki, the territory of the Mi'kmaq. As Treaty people, we are committed to reconciliation. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. As a union of students operating within a colonizing university, we must fulfill our responsibility to fight collectively and collaboratively for such outcomes as free and universal education, which are themselves aspects of the project of decolonization, as well as other outcomes which are in the interest of First Nations students at NSCAD. We recognize that Nova Scotia is the home to over 50 African Nova Scotian communities, whose culture, heritage and histories have been, and remain a key part of this province for more than 400 years.

Agenda: Owen motions to approve the agenda, unanimous. Motion passed

Minutes: Tabled till next meeting

Signatures:

Reports

Owen

- Hired new CRO, dissolved CRO Hiring Committee
- Sent email to all students regarding new committees, etc
- Communicated with Admin about course offerings, trying to set up a meeting this week
- Talked with students about Council positions

Alexandra (Summer 2023 - March 2024 Report)

- Attended Senate meeting, Senate Research Committee
- Travel Subsidy Committee
- Attended Curriculum Committee meetings
- Attending other Senate sub-committee meetings as scheduled
- Worked closely with VP Finance in regards to the financial report + other financial issues
- Attended majority of SUNSCAD Executive meetings, gave input, voted on agenda items
- Supported/resolved Master's degree and academic-financial issues, continuously working to resolve class/professor issues
- Participated in OSE panel Q&A discussion
- Attended BOG Finance and Physical resources meeting - reviewing docs, etc
- Researched bylaws for both SUNSCAD & BOG & CFS
- Attended Board of Governors (kept SUNSCAD's seats) until December 2023
- Advocated for reduced upfront prices in some of the more costly courses
- Advocated for clearer course descriptions
- Advocated for campus dorms
- Advocated for lowering and/or not increasing tuition rates
- Discord- Linking email updates, regularly checking in, answering questions, using the SUNSCAD profile
- Online Office hours (Mondays)

Chris

- N/A

Prabnoor

- N/A

Mohammed

- N/A

Deirdre

- N/A

Issues at Academy Campus (Accessibility, maintenance)

- Discussed leaks, structural problems, temperature control/heating issues. Class on 3rd floor of Academy building had a bad smell from leaking heater
- Problems with accessibility- too many stairs, some professors cancelling classes due to inaccessibility
- Students also noted heating problems at Port campus (some improvement this semester)
- We can reach out to FUNSCAD to collaborate on improving Academy facilities? A lot of funding now going to Port

Student Dance Petition at Port Campus

- Students said Kat MacDonald is planning a party at Port campus, likely in sculpture or drawing room
- Discussed what people want at the event- music, food, DJ, light projectors
- Could rent speakers, projectors from multimedia center, contact Sarah Maloney to ask about the schedule of the rooms at Port
- We can create a committee to plan the event

Discussion of Council+Executive Positions

- Elections currently happening, we urgently need Council positions filled
- Students asked if one has to be mostly in a specific department to be its representative- no, but they should at least identify with the group of students being represented and be in contact with the department
- Asked about how to get involved without attending meetings- we are working on an online feedback form, students can also contact OSE, any SUNSCAD member, or Jude Gerrard

5:51 pm- Owen motions to take a recess till 6 pm, Alexandra seconds

6:02 pm- Meeting reconvenes

Problems with course offerings

- 3rd-year Film, Ceramics students, unable to fulfill graduation requirements due to inadequate course offerings. Problems with Textiles, Drawing, Photo, as well

- Students unhappy with summer course offerings, Selfserv not being up-to-date, essential upper-level courses being too scarce, 14-week course schedule instead of 12-week
- NSCAD Dean requested a detailed survey about courses from students before booking a meeting with SUNSCAD
- Kalani emailed the Dean+Registrar outlining problems with course offerings/degree structure. Main points/changes needed:
 1. Comprehensive plans for every degree, include order in which courses must be taken
 2. Minimum course offerings must be available in accordance with the degree plan
 3. Create a tool to determine the time required for course assignments to ensure a fair workload

6:31 pm- Owen motions to go in camera, Mohammed seconds

6:46 pm- Owen motions to go out of camera, Mohammed seconds

Plan of action for course issues

- Students are against Dean's proposed survey, asked Executive to oppose it
- Owen motions that, instead of sending a survey to students, we send out an email campaign before Friday with templates for students to email Administration (including who to contact) about course offerings for the upcoming Summer, Fall, and Winter semesters, Mohammed seconds, majority, motion passed
- Can also CC Ombudsperson, President in emails to add pressure

Preferred minutes formatting, app for online Council meetings

- Alexandra asks students which format they prefer for minutes- majority prefer pdf
- Student asks if we can use a different application for online meetings as Teams is not the most user-friendly, majority prefer Zoom as an alternative
- Owen motions that we switch the link for the next Council meeting to Zoom on a trial basis, and fund the cost of the application, Mohammed seconds, majority, motion passed

~7 pm- Mohammed has to leave, gives proxy to Prabnoor

Owen motions to table the following agenda items: Funding for academy student lounge, educating students on what councilors do, Prabnoor seconds, items tabled

Online anonymous feedback form

- Owen motions to create an online anonymous feedback form to contact department representatives, Prabnoor seconds, majority, motion passed
- Alexandra can do a rough draft, send to Executives + Deirdre, then bring to Council

Funding for Academic advising event

- Owen motions that we fund an \$80 honorarium for a notetaker, and 70\$ for snacks for the Academic Advising event, Prabnoor seconds, majority, motion passed

Omnibus- Committees and Chairs

- Owen motions that we strike four Committees, and that they be Chaired by the following students: SUNSCAD Zine Press Structuring Committee- Owen, Pigeon Press Structuring Committee- Ellen Sillence if willing, Port Dance Committee- Kat MacDonald if willing, Feminist Collective Revitalization Committee- Beah Learn, Alexandra seconds, majority, motion passed

Pigeon Press April schedule

- Owen motions that Pigeon Press distributes coffee every Tuesday and Friday in April, Prabnoor seconds, majority, motion passed

Honorarium for Ellen

- Owen motions to provide an honorarium of \$200 for Ellen Sillence to manage the Pigeon Press in April, if Ellen is to attend 6 or more out of the 9 sessions, and sessions are to remain at approximately 4 hours, Prabnoor seconds, majority, motion passed

Funding for MUST Exhibition

- Owen motions that we fund \$200 for snacks and supplies for the “MUST” (Advanced Drawing) Exhibition, Prabnoor seconds, majority, motion passed

Email Motions

- Owen motions that the SUNSCAD Council adopt the recommendation of the CRO Hiring Committee to hire the candidate Leen Bakri Kasbah to the position of SUNSCAD CRO for the upcoming General Election, Deirdre seconds, majority approval, motion passed
- Owen motions that the elections be held on April 1st, 2nd and 3rd (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday), Alexandra seconds, majority approval, motion passed

Announcements

- Next public Council meeting will be held at 5 pm on March 27th

Owen motions to adjourn the meeting, Prabnoor seconds, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm