

Students' Representative Council

January 17, 2025 @ 6:30 pm

SU Boardroom & MS Teams



1 Land Recognition

The MSVUSU acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of Mi'kmaq people.

2 Attendance Roll Call

Attendees: Carson Cameron, President; Koen Schlieff, Professional Studies Representative; Simranpreet Kaur, Vice President Research and Graduate Affairs; Jackson MacIntyre, Residence Representative; Juliana Fanning, Gender Advocacy Representative; Meghna Minocha, Arts Representative; Nola Sam, Chief Financial Officer; Grace MacInnis, Vice President Student Life; Diana Hazelton, Science Representative; Anu Damodaran, Mature Students' Representative; Jessie Taylor, 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative; Batoul Nour, International Student Representative; Alden Gibbon, Student at Large; Caelin Lloyd, Student at Large; Yasmin Abdel-Rahaman, Guest; Jessica Ryuzaki, Guest; Susan Sharpe, Guest; Melissa Schlick, Guest; Abbi A. McCullough, Guest; Victoria Foster, Guest; Stefan Michaelson Zegarra, Guest; Scovia Budukajo, Guest

Regrets: Agam Vikram Sharma, Accessibility Representative

Absentees: Jasmeet Singh, Vice President Communications; Devora Goldberg, Board of Governors Representative; Armaan Kush, First Year Representative; Marie-Dominique, BIPOC Representative

3 Call to Order

At 6:31 pm.

4 Approval of the Agenda

01/17/2025:SRC01 Motion

Be it resolved that the meeting agenda be adopted as amended.

Residence Representative/Gender Advocacy Representative

Carried Unanimously

5 Approval of Minutes

01/17/2025:SRC02 Motion

Be it resolved that the minutes for the SRC meeting on 11/29/2024 be adopted as distributed.

Professional Studies Representative/Gender Advocacy Representative

Carried Unanimously

New Business

6 Society Ratification

01/17/2025:SRC03 Motion

Be it resolved that ASCD MSVU Student Chapter society be ratified for the academic year 2024-2025.

Residence Representative/Vice President Student Life

Carried Unanimously

01/17/2025:SRC04 Motion

Be it resolved that the Financial Management Society be ratified for the academic year 2024-2025.

Vice President Student Life/Gender Advocacy Representative

Carried Unanimously

01/17/2025:SRC05 Motion

Be it resolved that Chess Society be ratified for the academic year 2024-2025 subject to the following conditions:

1. Constitutional amendments as advised by SRC in consultation with Vice President Communications
2. Distribution of the revised constitution to the Student Representative Council

Residence Representative/Gender Advocacy Representative

Carried Unanimously

7 Community Project Fund (C. Cameron)

Item for discussion and feedback.

01/17/2025:SRC06 Motion

Be it resolved that the agenda be amended to reorder the sequence of items.

Unanimous Consent

8 Reports

8.1 Executives

Reports were given by President (See Appendix A), Vice President Student Life (See Appendix B), and Vice President Research & Graduate Affairs (See Appendix C).

8.2 Committees

Discussion on sending regrets on behalf of Pay & Honorarium Committee.

01/17/2025:SRC07 Motion

Be it resolved that Students' Representative Council authorizes Gender Advocacy Representative to create a guiding document related to SRC responsibilities, grants etc. and report back to SRC.

Unanimous Consent

9 Scheduling Winter 2025 Meetings

01/17/2025:SRC08 Motion

Be it resolved that Students' Representative Council meetings will take place on Friday, February 7th at 5 pm; Friday, 28th at 6 pm; Friday, March 7th at 6 pm; Friday, March 11th, 6 pm.

Residence Representative/Gender Advocacy Representative

Carried Unanimously

10 In-Camera

01/17/2025:SRC09 Motion

Be it resolved that the Students' Representative Council move into in-camera session.

Professional Studies Representative/Vice President Student Life

Carried Unanimously

01/17/2025:SRC10 Motion

Be it resolved that the Students' Representative Council move out of in-camera session.

Unanimous Consent

01/17/2025:SRC11 Motion

Be it resolved that the discussion on Nimbus Tutoring App appears in the next Students' Representative Council meeting.

Unanimous Consent

01/17/2025:SRC12 Motion

Be it resolved that the Students' Representative Council approves the expenses for hiring an external auditor as determined by the Executive Committee.

Unanimous Consent

01/17/2025:SRC13 Motion

Be it resolved that the Mature Student Representative & 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative be appointed to Elections Committee for General Elections 2025.

Unanimous Consent

01/17/2025:SRC14 Motion

Be it resolved that Amina Abawajy be appointed as Education Representative.

Unanimous Consent

01/17/2025:SRC15 Motion

Be it resolved that Meghna Minocha (Arts Representative) be appointed as Vice President Advocacy & Undergraduate Student Affairs.

Residence Representative/2SLGBTQIA+ Representative

Carried Unanimously

11 Adjournment

01/17/2025:SRC16 Motion

Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Appendix A

Students' Union President's Report for the Students' Representative Council Meeting on the Day of January 17, 2025

Home Safe for the Holidays - Travel Bursary

- Before our team left for the Winter Break, we awarded our Members bursaries to help cover fuel expenses to make travelling home for the holidays possible. This project applied only to in-province students and aimed primarily at students from rural and reserve communities. For this project, I was responsible for sourcing funding from outside the Students' Union, coordinating the application process (along with other team members), and supporting the fund allocation process. This project was a great success, with no funds remaining from our Alumni Association donations.

Food Security Education Project

- This project provides students with open-access and no-cost education from grassroots activists and academic researchers on how to help create a more food-secure community, delivering practical information to combat this pressing issue in Halifax. Along with research-focused education in food security, this project offers one (1) paid assistantship in food security research to one (1) MSVU student who partakes in this project. The seminar series was launched on the 14 of January; today (the 17 of January) marks the completion of our third lecture. As this project's manager, I have accomplished the following: I constructed a project plan, secured a Department of Nutrition research director for the assistantship portion of the project, wrote an accepted proposal (in the amount of 5,655 CAD) to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), secured five (5) community lecturers, and organized payments to those lecturers. This was all done with support from other Councillors. Now, I am working closely with our Administrative Assistant & Governance Secretary (AAGS) to create an account from which the research director can pay his summer assistant.

Standards of Excellence Grant

- To better align our food bank with the national standards, our team was approved for CAD 14,187 to procure a consultant (September 2024). Union staff and elects (myself, included) helped onboard our new Food Security Policy Analyst in December. As we approached the holidays, I met with our Analyst to explain her first work product: a jurisdiction scan. When the Union re-opened, I provided edits to her first j-scan draft. The final version was submitted today, including recommendations from the Food Bank Manager. Now, I am working closely with the AAGS and CFO to release payment, and looking forward to supporting our Analyst on her next product.

Community Project Fund

- In the fall, I met with the MSVU President to present the idea of a community project fund that would allow our members to bring their innovative ideas to life. This week, I received confirmation that the project is close to launching and have begun working to confirm four (4) Councillors to serve on the awarding committee.

Dalhousie Legal Aid Tenant's Rights Clinic

- This project aimed to inform students about their rights as renters in Nova Scotia, providing them with 1:1 sessions with Dalhousie Legal Aid. This event was held on the 13 of January in the Students' Union Board Room. For this project, I was solely responsible for all our Students' Union's responsibilities.

Newsletter (2.0) Launch

- Our communications and student life staff and elects are in the early planning stages of the launch of our newsletter. Team members working on this project have committed themselves to a mid-February timeline to publish our newsletter and host a launch party in the Rook. For this project, I have involved myself in coordinating deadlines so that our Council and project implementers are clear on our expectations as a team.

Students for the Liberation of Palestine Kijipuktuk (SLPK) - Working Together

- As a continuation of our discussions with SLPK, I met two (2) team members in December and again in January. These discussions aimed to support the steps to follow the financial disclosure motion presented to MSVU's Senate in the fall.

MSVUSU Naloxone Program

- The MSVUSU naloxone program provides students with no-cost, unfettered, and confidential access to naloxone. This project was formed in partnership with the NS Take Home Naloxone program (2024). Currently, I am working with the Indigenous Student Advisor to produce indicators for the doors of all satellite sites to make sites more visible.

Appendix B

VP Student Life Report: January 17th

Since starting the second semester and 2025, I have started the semester off with Winter Orientation. To start, we partnered with Residence Life to host a winter carnival on January 6th in the MPR which had great turn out. Students stayed until we had to take the inflatables down, at most times there were 50 students or more and continuous use, overall, a great turn out!

The next event was the silent disco on January 9th, we decorated the Rook with lots of sparkly decorations provided by the Rook and Residence life and had a great turn out. The highest number of students we had at one time was roughly 100, although this did not last the whole event, students stayed until closing and overall, a very successful night.

Then bingo was hosted on Friday January 10th. There were many hiccups along the way, but in the end the event happened, we had 20 students to start and some leaving halfway but for a last-minute change of plans I am still happy with the turn out. Hopefully a more successful bingo will be able to be held in February, possibly sex toy bingo or stim toy bingo.

I am currently working on the society fair, which is set to take place on January 22nd, I have reached out to all societies and hope to get responses soon. In addition, I am also planning Bollywood night on January 30th with Simranpreet and Jasmeet's help. We have the Dj confirmed and are just working on some other fine details for the event. I am also hosting board game night on January 24th

In addition, the society affairs committee met this Friday to discuss missed funding requests, in hopes to get any missed or late funding requests sorted and sent off to Nola.

I am also working with Simranpreet, our international student rep and the pride center to create a collaborative event for Valentines Day.

Appendix C

SRC report, 17th January 2025

This is the report of the Vice President Research and Graduate Student Affairs, MSVUSU

Service Reports:

- **Food Bank:** Operating on Tuesdays and Fridays during winter 2025, the Food Bank Manager has exciting projects planned for February, with further details to be announced soon.
- **Captain Crow's Café:** Provides meals on Mondays and snacks on Thursdays. The latest service delivered approximately 40 meals to students and 30–35 snacks on Thursdays.
- **Bi-weekly Check-ins:** I hold regular check-ins with the food security service managers to ensure the smooth operation of services.

Orientation:

- For the winter orientation, I assisted in organizing events for graduate students, including the Graduate Student Social and the Knowledge Fair, scheduled for January 20th and 28th, respectively.

February Plans:

1. **AI Workshop:** During the first week of February, I have planned for Emily Ballantyne to join our workshop on AI, guiding students on referencing, citing, and using AI effectively. She will also provide support in understanding its appropriate applications.
2. **Roundtable Discussion (Tentative – February 6th):** I am coordinating a discussion on the sustainable allocation of food security funds. The event will include experts from non-profits, finance, food security initiatives, university finance professors, and university advancement to develop effective strategies for financial education and sustainability within our food security services.
3. **Collaborative Event:** In mid-February, I'm helping organize an event with the VP Student Life, International Student Representative, Pride Centre Manager, and Soup Kitchen Manager. This event will focus on student engagement opportunities, including election and hiring positions within the student union and external organizations. The event will also feature Valentine's care packages and themed desserts from Captain Crow's Café.

Ongoing Contributions:

- Facilitating a meeting with the Graduate Student Committee to address student concerns and brainstorm strategies to enhance their support system.
- Supporting the AHN department by organizing events and addressing graduate student concerns.
- Assisting the Food Security Policy Analyst as needed.

Others:

- Food Security Community Research project: During the first week of school, the Professional Studies Representative and I visited AHN classes to inform students about our Food Security Community Research initiative.