



The meeting of the Student Council of the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union was held on Sunday, November 17, 2024. Ariana McGrattan took minutes for the meeting. Owen Brown, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT:

Hadiqa Sulman, George Jiang, Shreesh Agrawal, Bheemaluxmee Damry, Mallory Travis, Kirsten Smith, Lillia Curley, Ethan Drake, Fatima Sadat, Adam MacKenzie, Ava Stewart, Mahjabin Bahar, Hexi Wang, Anna MacLaren, Rebecca Michelin, Ngozi Roseanne Agunbiade, Kallie Drummond, Scott Thompson, Anusha Sivakumar, Rose Avoine-Dalton, Ifeanyichukwu Praise Aniobi, Jane Ripley Cooper Cox, Prantor Kumar Mondal.

ABSENT:

Noah Mannholland, Camille Mady.

ALSO PRESENT:

Cezar Campeanu, Riddhima Upreti, Owen Brown, Ariana McGrattan.

1 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Councillor Anna MacLaren/Councillor Prantor Kumar Mondal: To approve the agenda of Sunday, November 17, 2024 .

Motion: Carried at 6:01 pm.

3 APPROVAL OF THE PAST MINUTES

Motion: Councillor Mallory Travis/Councillor Kirsten Smith: To approve the minutes of Sunday, November 3, 2024.

Abstention: Ava Stewart, Adam Mackenzie, Jane Ripley Cooper Cox.

Motion: Carried at 6:02 pm.



Councillor Hexi Wang was absent for the first 2 motions.

4 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a) PRESIDENT

- UPEI President: Shreesh and I met with President Wendy on Nov. 15. We gave an update on the advocacy work, that a second round of requests for meetings has been sent out to Provincial ministers and MLAs. We brought up the budget process of the university and President Wendy has agreed to do a Budget cafe with students to explain the budget process and tuition pricing. We are asked why the hockey games see a poor attendance. We also brought up the concern about summer on-campus housing in Blanchard and getting rid of mandatory meal plan in the summer. President Wendy was receptive.
- Senate: I attended a Senate Steering Committee meeting and the committee worked out the agenda for the next Senate meeting on Nov. 22.
- Board of Governors: I attended a meeting with Development, Fundraising, and External Relations Committee. The committee received reports from the department of Alumni and development, marketing department and communication department. The committee talked about the term of reference and discussed professional development needs.
- Advocacy: Shreesh and I have been following the Legislative Assembly sitting closely and Shreesh has sent out another round of meeting requests to the provincial ministers and MLAs.
- UPEI Strategic Planning: I attended the consultation session for Graduate students. A range of topics had been raised by grad students



including research funding, affordability, streamline process, job market linked to education.

- Other meetings: The executives and full-time staff had an event ideation session for next semester. Any feedback and suggestions is welcomed from the councilors. Executives had a standing meeting with James Reddin, director of student affairs. It was a casual chat on student culture. The alcohol policy was brought up and we talked about alcohol use for students. The executives had a meeting with Inara and Jonathan and talked about student engagement.
- CASA: The CASA Secure the Grant Campaign is ongoing currently and Shreesh and I had a booth to collect campaign materials from our students and talk about Canadian Student Grant with students. I encourage council members to spread the word, participate in the campaign and come to the campaign table.
- SU Strategic Planning: The strategic plan for the Student Union is essentially a plan for the organization for the next three years' development. The plan will document where we want the SU to be in three years, with strategies on how to get there. The Executive Committee and NIFD Committee will review a comprehensive survey soon, which was developed in prior years for this purpose. The survey should be sent out as soon as possible for student feedback. Then the next step will be various consultations and focus groups with past executives and past councilors. Councilors can play a vital role in the consultation with their constituency.
- Other Activities: I presented a wreath on Remembrance Day on behalf of all students at the Nov. 11 Remembrance Day ceremony. I went to a Dean of Arts candidate public presentation. I went to a Meet and Greet



with Senator Downe hosted by the Political Science Society. I went to the pumpkin smash event, which saw a 60 - 70 attendance.

b) **VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC**

The report was shared with councillors but not presented during the meeting due to the VPA's absence.

- Nov 4 - 9: Meeting with BIPOC USHR. APCC Curriculum Meeting. Discussion of upcoming changes/additions to Master's of Nursing program and DVM entry requirements to reflect Indigenous student Seat. Academic Appeal Support. Meeting with Student Engagement Meeting with James Reddin. Atlantic OER meeting, focusing on selection of next OER Committee Members.
- Nov 10 - 17: Attended Remembrance Day Ceremony as part of SU Contingent. Meeting with VPAR, focusing on residence issue. Mentioned setting up a meeting with Austin at Ancillary Services, which will be next step in resolving the problem raised last Council meeting. 1st-Year Course Review Task Force meeting set up. Academic Appeal Support. APCC emergency meeting to approve MPHEC documentation for Master's of Nursing overhaul. Wrote letter of support for Library's OER funding redirect to first-year textbooks. NMet with Donald Moses regarding Library funding.

c) **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

- External Advocacy: Our advocacy campaign preparations continue, with a second session of student leaders getting their pictures taken — 25+ students in total, more than we were aiming for! I also sent another round of emails to several provincial leaders to schedule advocacy meetings. So far, we have received confirmation from the offices of MLA McNeilly and Hon. Premier King. The 2024 Fall Capital



Budget was also announced, and it was a significant win for post-secondary students on the Island. In particular, the province announced a \$3.7 million investment in 10 supportive housing units for youth as they 'transition from care to independence.' They also committed to investing \$5.2 million over 5 years to improve student loan administration, integrate provincial and federal aid packages better, and simplify the process for students. We will release a statement in response to the Capital Budget, which is attached at the bottom of this report. I reviewed, formatted and signed a letter of support for the Robertson Library following Noah's meeting with Donald Moses (University Librarian) regarding the library's budget submission, which included an official request to continue the Open Educational Resource (OER) funding of \$50,000 annually.

- Canadian Alliance of Student Associations: Graduate Advisory Committee Meetings: Finalized event planning for Cocktail Academia (Grad Forum at CASA's Advocacy Week) and brainstormed ways to better deliver the graduate student recommendations to the delegation during advocacy training. National Advocacy Committee Meeting: touched base on the Canada Student Grant Campaign and how we plan to use the collected student testimonies effectively. We received the campaign materials from CASA and began tabling in the W.A. Murphy Student Centre. We have only tabled for one hour and got a decent student engagement — 30+ written cheques and one video interview. Consultation Sessions: CASA committees virtually consult with the delegation to provide us with updates before a plenary to ensure all motions are passed smoothly and on time. The Governance



and Internal Review Committee (GIRC) suggested amendments to a few Operating Procedures. The Federal Policy Committee also presented the external policies they have been developing.

- UPEI Strategic Plan Consultations: I was invited to a Strategic Planning luncheon to provide feedback and direction for the University's strategic planning process. It was a productive conversation focused on transparency, streamlined processes, and improved communication across campus. We also discussed improving the visibility of UPEI on the Island with more University-themed decor (for example, flags) along University Ave and more engagement with the broader community. I raised an issue over student input with the budget process, especially with the new streamlined procedure with the provincial government, as we do not get a 'real' voice. George and I attended the Strategic Planning Consultation Session for Graduate Students, which was very well attended, and I was impressed with the quality of feedback provided.
- Standing and Other Meetings: Introductory meeting with BIPOC. Meeting with Student Engagement — Inara Bhalesha (Student Engagement Officer) and Jonathan Hewitt (Manager of Student Culture and Community Standards). We reflected on the domestic student engagement at the Wet/Dry events and how we can continue drawing them in. We also met with James Reddin (Acting Director of Webster Centre for Student Success). The full-time staff and executives also collectively participated in an event ideation meeting to discuss improving our programming for the Winter semester. The meeting with Dr Rodgers went well, as we discussed the student concerns at



the previous council meeting. Beyond Noah's discussion with Dr. Naterer, Dr. Rodgers was receptive to the unaffordability of a mandatory meal plan over the summer, and she will speak to Austin Clement about it.

- Events: The 2024 Harry Baglole Memorial Public Symposium in Island Studies: "Homelessness and Food Insecurity on Canada's Food Island" was a success, and the discussion was very productive. We had a great turnout — nearly filling the Lecture Theatre — and some politicians were also in attendance. The group also met last Friday to de-brief and discuss how we can improve similar events in the future. I attended the Deans List Celebration Nights for the Faculty of Arts and the McDougall Faculty of Business. Organized by the Political Science Society, I stopped by the US Election Watch Party and attended the Meet-and-Greet with Senator Downe. I was also at the (inaugural) Pitch Battle hosted by the Catherine Callbeck Center for Entrepreneurship. We also attended the Remembrance Day Service in Charlottetown at the Cenotaph outside Province House.

d) **VICE PRESIDENT FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

- Nov 4th - Nov 10th: I attended the first SMCS Pizza Seminar of the year and learned about UPEI's entrepreneurship training workshops and programs available to 2nd and 3rd year students. Their offices are in the Robertson Library 201A and 201B. Invited the International Senate representative and Residence representative to create a survey for the quality of food at the Wanda Wyatt Dining Hall. Attended an introductory meeting with BIPOC USHR to understand what their organization is about. Attended the Student Engagement meeting and



contributed to providing feedback on how their Open House went. Attended another M365 Project Advisory Committee meeting. Had another meeting with James Reddin where we discussed things like alcohol policy and more student culture on campus.

- Nov 11th - Nov 17th: There was a reminder for all clubs to fill in their funding form before the deadline. Had the funding committee happen on Thursday, introduced support funding to the committee, and also took notes on how to improve the efficiency of giving information to the committee for the future. Decided to have a Budget committee sometime early December. I joined an additional committee that discusses undergraduate student research. Began talks about Strategic planning meetings for the future of the Student Union.

e) **VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE**

- Nov 3 – Nov 10: Arranged printing for November Calendar and set up in the Student Centre. Introductory meeting with BIPOC USHR- discussed our roles and organizations purpose, discussed potential event collaborations for next semester. Meeting with the student engagement office- discussed recent events and campus activities, what causes certain events to have a high level of engagement and potential events to welcome students back to campus next semester. Standing meeting with James Reddin- Spoke about the services offered and other campus policies. Meeting with CEC (clubs and events coordinator) regarding Holiday market and Clubs cup event, Scavenger Hunt. Conducted Pumpkin Smash event with CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) and MHWC (Mental Health and Wellness coordinator). Coordinated with Campus life Advisor for



'Nintendo smash' tournament and planning for the event. Coordinated with Residence Life Advisor for 'Karaoke night' event and planning for the event. Organized all receipts for all the supplies ordered including Halloween decoration, Destress week and other event supplies with specific details for proper allocation of the costs.

- Nov 10 – Nov 17: SCSA Fall 2024 Award Cycle Adjudication Meeting. 'Access for all' event (supported by Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion) discussion- Met with the team to discuss the event details and how we could potentially support it. Recorded Social media reel with Campus Life to promote 'Nintendo smash' tournament event. Shortlisted one vendor due to health and safety concerns for the Holiday Market. Coordinating with and sharing updates with participating vendors for the Holiday Market. Event idea meeting- Discussion on potential events for the winter semester. Conducted Suncatcher Workshop in McMillan Hall. Met with CEC regarding clubs committee meeting, ongoing scavenger hunt and assigned tasks. Attempted to address challenges in working effectively with the current CEC, although it was confirmed they will be resigning. Recruitment for a new CEC will begin shortly. Coordinating with the Environmental Health Officer for the food license being used for the MultiCultural Mondays.

Motion: Councillor Kirsten Smith/Councillor Ethan Drake: To approve the executive reports.

Motion: Carried at 6:27 pm.



Motion: Councillor Anna MacLaren/Councillor Prantor Kumar Mondal: To give Dr. Wendy Rogers and Dr. Suzanne Kresta speaking rights.

Motion: Carried at 6:28 pm.

Issues brought up:

- Class scheduling, availability, and content
- Staffing and issues regarding EDI within the engineering faculty
- Support of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals
- Ramadan support and awareness
- Sustainability

Councillor Prantor Kumar Mondal left the meeting during the discussion.

-Councillor Ethan Drake: In engineering there are focus area electives, 5 are offered according to the website, but they are not offered every year. This is very disheartening and can cause delayed graduations.

Dr. Rogers and Dr. Kresta acknowledged these complaints.

-VPFA Cezar Campeneau: Are there committees within each department that discuss classes in depth? Particularly course levels and scheduling. How are issues avoided?

-Dr. Wendy Rogers: Yes, curricular review committee within each faculty. -Councillor

-Councillor Lillia Curley: There are courses listed for each department on UPEI's website that have not been offered in years, this is an issue as well.

-Councillor Prantor Kumar Mondal: Also an issue for graduate students. The graduate courses need to be updated and more individual to the student. Not having courses can delay a student's research projects.

-VPFA Shreesh Agrawal: Would APCC be the committee Cezar was referencing?

-Dr. Wendy Rogers: No, it is done at a departmental level.



- Councillor Ethan Drake: I conducted an anonymous survey of my constituents. There were complaints of racist grading from a professor and of professors belittling students about their accommodations.
- Dr. Wendy Rogers: The action plan implementation should address many of these concerns. The provincial government is financially supporting the EDI and human rights department, who are creating training programs for staff and faculty.
- Dr. Suzanne Kresta: We also doubled the staff in the accommodations department recently.
- Councillor Fatima Sadat: How will you be approaching the high turnover rate and lack of professors in the engineering faculty?
- Dr. Suzanne Kresta: We are actively hiring within the department. We have had some natural turnover (retirements, etc.) and we are a new rapidly growing program, switching to be more research intensive, there's going to be some turnover. We are working to create a welcoming environment where professionals feel like they can grow and thrive.
- Councillor Hex Wang: New immigration laws and language regulations are difficult on international students. Is there any support for language learning? Also, graduate students do not feel represented. Is the GSA or the SU a more powerful organization for graduate students?
- Dr. Wendy Rogers: Talk to the GSA about the second issue. The federal government changed the immigration rules, the university is trying to help but it is very complex. Language requirements are also a federal issue, but we will look into what we're doing to provide student support.
- Councillor Jane Ripley Cooper Cox: Over the last few weeks, considering the political situations in the US and Canada, I have noticed increased anxiety within my constituents. Especially the trans and 2-spirited individuals. I would love to hear a



public affirmation of your support and to confirm that the university will continue to provide my constituents with resources.

-Dr. Wendy Rogers: Absolutely. We will continue to try to improve the support we offer to all 2SLGBTQIA individuals.

-Councillor Anusha Sivakumar: What are you doing for EDI? There are issues of racist language being used.

-Dr. Wendy Rogers: Looking into getting an ombudsperson to the university staff.

-Councillor Mahjabin Bahar: This is an issue specific to my department, there is a math professor instructing high level computer science classes. This is unfair to him and the students. Sometimes he is unable to answer questions because this is not his field of expertise. Also, Ramadan will be within the school year this year, we need more awareness of this. Fasting can be very hard on students.

-Councillor Ethan Drake: The engineering faculty had ramadan care packages and a prayer room last year.

-Councillor Rose Avoine-Dalton: Can we talk about sustainability?

-Dr. Wendy Rogers: The university is following the UN'S sustainable development goals.

-Councillor Ava Stewart: There is a concern about a lack of equipment for practice skills within the nursing department. How does the university plan to help nursing students? Will the medical school be involved?

-Dr. Wendy Rogers: I am aware of the lack of adequate lab equipment, it is likely related to funding. The skills labs will be moved to the medical school next summer and hopefully that should fix some of the issues.

-VPE Shreesh Agrawal: Teaching assignments (what professor is instructing which class) and course schedules should be out earlier. A common syllabus would be nice.

-Dr. Suzanne Kresta: We cannot do it any earlier because it is too hard for professors to plan. We need to have a pan-university approach to attempt that.



-Councillor Ethan Drake: There is poor professor communication. Lack of direction and availability.

-Dr. Suzanne Kresta: We need more structure in things like syllabi for sure. We also need to be supporting professors, students need to communicate with professors.

-Councillor Hexi Wang: People from different cultures might not be comfortable complaining, for example someone from China would never critique a professor.

-Councillor Lillia Curley: The idea of a common syllabi is very interesting, can we see if the general student population is interested in that.

-Dr. Wendy Rogers: A common syllabus is an operational issue. Professors have academic freedom and some control over their course content.

Councillor Adam Mackenzie left the meeting.

Motion: Councillor Ethan Drake/Councillor Scott Thompson: To remove the speaking rights of Dr. Wendy Rogers and Dr. Suzanne Kresta.

Motion: Carried at 8:09 pm

6 CLUBS AND SOCIETIES RATIFICATION

Councillor Hexi Wang left the meeting.

The UPEI Paramedicine Society was re-ratified.

Motion: Councillor Mallory Travis/Councillor Anna MacLaren: To approve the ratification of UPEI Valor Society.

Motion: Carried at 8:12 pm.

Motion: Councillor Anusha Sivakumar/VPE Shreesh Agrawal: To approve the ratification of UPEI Accounting Association.



Abstentions: Ethan Drake.

Motion: Carried at 8:13 pm.

Motion: Councillor Mallory Travis/VPE Shreesh Agrawal: To approve the ratification of The Economics Society of UPEI .

Motion: Carried at 8:15 pm.

-VPSL Hadiqa Sulman: The proposed flaming youth club responded to my email about providing more information so the council can differentiate the Christian club, PENSA UPEI Chapter did not.

Motion: Councillor Anna MacLaren/Councillor Ethan Drake: To approve the ratification of Flaming Youth.

Motion: Carried at 8:22 pm.

Motion: Councillor Anna MacLaren/Councillor Ava Stewart: To reject the ratification request of PENSA Canada UPEI Chapter.

Motion: Carried at 8:23 pm.

7 CANADA STUDENT GRANT CAMPAIGN

-There is a proposed \$1200 deduction in federal student aid. This would also affect student's provincial aid. CASA is fighting against this and needs student help. The councillors all filled out support forms for CASA.

8 NEW BUSINESS

-Councillor Ava Stewart: People have been complaining about the Fox and Crow, particularly attitudes of the servicers. Also, they need to be wearing their uniforms.



- VPE Shreesh Agrawal: Can we have a referendum about the common syllabus?
- VPFA Cezar Campeneau: We need to be very clear about what that is.
- VPE Shreesh Agrawal: What about a letter detailing our stance?
- Councillor Ava Stewart: It could be a good way to get student engagement in elections.
- Councillor Rebecca Michelin: We have a common syllabus outline at AVC and it works very well.
- Councillor Lillia Curley: I thought the original idea we discussed with the president and the dean was having syllabuses available to students before they chose to register?
- VPE Shreesh Agrawal: I would like to motion for a standard syllabus across the board. Just something straightforward.
- Councillor Lillia Curley: I am not sure if this is our most important issue of the year.
- Councillor Rebecca Michelin: Point of information, are the professors academic freedoms listed anywhere? There is little about it in the academic calendar.
- President George Jiang: The contract between the faculty association and the university may have more information.
- Councillor Rose Avoine-Dalton: It does not sound like professors are following the information provided in the academic calendar. It would be nice to remind professors.
- VPE Shreesh Agrawal: Can we wait to make any motions until VPA Noah is here to vote?

Motion: Councillor Kallie Drummond/Councillor Scott Thompson: To table any discussion of a common syllabi until the next meeting.

Motion: Carried at 8:53 pm.



-Councillor Anusha Sivakumar: If we have a guest speaker again, can we have the meeting earlier?

The chair noted this request.

-VPE Shreesh Agrawal: To touch on an earlier issue, the SU is the only recognized student union, every UPEI student is a member. The GSA (graduate student association) exists to represent graduate students who have joined their association, it is a non profit organization.

9 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councillor Ava Stewart/Councillor Anna MacLaren: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Carried at 8:57 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Signatures

President

Chair of Council