**March 26th AGM**

Present: Angie R., Henry T., Norah J., Austin P., Raine R., Carmela E., Caterina E., Colton ., Jordie F., Jarrod D.,

Regrets: Celeste W., Dean S.

Called to order: 1:39pm

Agenda:

1 – Reports

2 – Constitutional changes

* Change Director of Events to Vice President of Events?
	+ Motioned by Jordie
	+ Seconded by Norah
	+ Passes by majority vote

Adjourned: 2:22pm

Report of the STMSU President for the 2024-2025 Academic Year

This year, I had the privilege of serving as the STMSU President, sitting on the STM Board of Governors and participating as a member of the STM Authentic Indigenization Committee.

This school year has been a difficult one for universities in Canada. On November 15, 2024, the Canadian Minister of Immigration, the Honorable Mark Miller, significantly reduced the number of international students admitted into the country. This, combined with other factors such as the use of generative AI in classrooms and ongoing university negotiations with teacher unions across the nation, have contributed to a highly uncertain future for the Canadian university (to say nothing of the looming specter of tariffs from our nation’s southern neighbor). I note that in the most recent STM survey, the top concern of students polled was the cost of living; it is helpful to be reminded of the fact that while finding a permanent solution to this problem can only be solved by actors working at a much higher level of governance than the STMSU, the effects of high prices are acutely felt by the students our union represents. This is to say nothing of other challenges such as an increasing sense of isolation felt amongst students, a competitive workforce, and increasing political polarization.

While it is important to be cognizant of the many challenges that universities, and, indeed, student clubs are currently facing, it is also important to take inventory of the many good things that our STMSU accomplished this year. I note a few highlights from this year:

* In September, the union conducted in-person visits to every first year class offered at the college.
* The STMSU ran many successful events this year. In particular, the STMSU hosted a dance in each semester. Both were a huge success, allowing the union to connect with alumni, the teachers of the college (through the creation of a STM-faculty e-mail list), other student clubs, and students both from STM as well as the wider college. Both dances had over 50 people attend!
* The STMSU forged closer ties with the other student groups of the college.
* The STMSU continued and expanded upon its free food and drink program in the kitchenette.
* I had the privilege of getting in touch with a number of past STM presidents this year, including Don Sheridan, the STMSU president from 1967 to 1968. These are important relationships for the union to keep and maintain. Dr. Sheridan very generously donated a number of “artifacts” from his time as president back to the union, such as the STMSU president’s ring.
* The groundwork was laid this year for next year’s union to host, if they wish, a lecture or series of lectures next year.

I am grateful to my fellow union members for their hard work this year.

Duly submitted,

Henry Thiessen

VP Operations & Finance 2024-2025 – Jarrod Daunheimer

Activities in Finance

The STMSU operates on funding provided by STM, allowing the Union to best support students in the manner they see most impactful and accessible. However, as an important preface to the budget breakdown below, the STMSU utilizes these funds to host events and facilitate initiatives; however, any charges and fees for students to attend and access such events are not intended to recuperate all funds contributed to event supplies and materials. Nevertheless, no fees were charged this term.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Board Game Evening | Cost |
| Supplies: | 24.28 |
| Pizza | 34.6 |
| Total: | 58.88 |
|  |  |
| Fall Semi-Formal Dance | Cost |
| Decorations | 199.03 |
| Food | 129.08 |
| Total: | 328.11 |
|  |  |
| Study Bags | Cost |
| Total: | 136.12 |
|  |  |
| Winter Country Dance | Cost |
| Food | 140.85 |
| Decorations | 231.57 |
| Total: | 372.42 |
|  |  |
| Operations | Cost |
| Tea/Snacks: | 36.19 |
| Executive Events | 50.02 |
| Total: | 86.21 |
|  |  |
| Total Expenditures: | 981.74 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grants | Amount |
| STM Grant | 1500 |
|  |  |
| Total Earnings: | 1500 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Earnings | Total Expenses | Profit/Loss | Total Funds |
| 1500 | 981.74 | 518.26 | 2,152.75 |

\*Paint and plant excluded

Caterina Eremondi - First Year Representative – 2024-2025 Academic Year Report

Hello fellow Saint Thomas More Student Union members and students. I am thankful for the opportunity to have served as First Year Representative throughout the 2024 Fall term and 2025 Winter term. Despite coming into the role, a little late, I have learned a lot, and I am excited to continue to serve in another capacity next year.

As First Year Representative, I represented the interests of first year STM students. I am pleased to report that I have personally met and introduced myself to (at least) 41 first year students of STM, received their comments, and answered their questions. Here are some of the topics I discussed with these students:

* Scholarship and bursary applications (8-9 conversations)
* STM College Events (5 conversations)
* Campus Ministry (2-3 conversations)
* Navigation of the Building (5 conversations)
* Recommended professors and classes (3 conversations)
* Mental health and well-being (6 conversations)
* Academic support (6-7 conversations)
* Housing support/residence (1 conversation)

In general, all feedback I received about the union’s presence was positive and I don’t believe I ever needed to escalate any of it, nor was I unable to answer questions satisfactorily.

Furthermore, I had (at least) weekly conversations with different students of all years to encourage they become STM students and often attended non-STMSU run events as a representative of the union (typically one every two-weeks.)

I have also assisted with all but 1 event put on by the union since I took office and shadowed the other union members. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend a faculty council meeting, and I was unable to help with social media posts. I also missed a lot of early meetings due to my class schedule.

Lastly, I served as the student representative on the Hospital Catholicism Action group, attended 2 Student Leadership Council meetings and served on Corporation in the fall.

In the future, I strongly recommend providing more support for our First Year Representatives as well as hosting at least one event per term geared towards the inclusion of first years specifically, so that our First Year Representative can easily meet their peers and who they’re representing.

Furthermore, I recommend we try to find our First Year Representative ASAP.

Carmela Enriquez - VP Academics



**Report of Director of Events - Raine Rusaw**

**Event Planning & Execution**

1. **Board Game Afternoon**
	1. Organized a casual gaming afternoon to encourage social interaction among students. Both board games and video games.
	2. Secured the room and coordinated setup to ensure a welcoming environment.
2. **Fall Festival: Sugar Cookies & Photobooth**
	1. Assisted in planning and execution of a collaborative event featuring sugar cookie decorating and a photo booth.
3. **Fall Dance**
	1. Coordinated event logistics, including room setup, music, refreshments, and decorations.
	2. Assisted in promotion to maximize the attendance attending, created the posters.
4. **Winter Dance**
	1. Coordinated event logistics, including room setup, music, refreshments and decorations.
	2. Oversaw music selection and student participation.
5. **Paint and Plant...**
	1. Created survey to encourage sign up for the event.

**Academic Support & Advocacy**

1. **Attempted Late-Night Study Program (with Martin)**
	1. Proposed and attempted to implement a late-night study session to provide students with additional academic support at the Shannon Library.
	2. Collaborated with administration to explore feasibility and logistics of such an event.
2. **Study Bag Deconstructed in Library**
	1. Organized a resource initiative where students could access essential study materials in the Shannon library for free.
	2. Managed distribution of supplies and feedback collection from students to improve future academic support programs including this one.

**Administrative & Organizational Contributions**

1. **Attendance at Corporation Meeting**
	1. Represented the student body in discussions with key people involved in the college.
	2. Attended one on one training with Cheryl to go over the agenda of the meeting prior to the day.
2. **Communication & Outreach**
	1. Contacted Jacquie regarding:
		1. Merchandise inquiries to enhance student union branding.
		2. Student survey information to gather feedback and drive future initiatives.
			1. As well as us collaborating on the 2024-2025 student survey on behalf of the STMSU
		3. Collaboration opportunities for improving student engagement.
3. **Promotional Efforts**
	1. Designed and created posters for all STMSU events.
	2. Ensured effective distribution to maximize awareness and participation.
		1. Through both posters and “business cards”
		2. Paws announcements, social media posts, posters, business cards, and personal social account shoutouts.

**Leadership & Management**

1. **Chaired a Student Union Meeting**
	1. Led a STMSU meeting in the absence of Henry post Winter Dance.
	2. Managed agenda items, facilitated discussions, and ensured everything was followed according to the constitution rules.

**Angelica Rutkowski - VP Communications**

* Managed STMSU Instagram account
* Website exploded back in September, functional now
* PAWs announcements
* Short video of Dance on the Prairies
* Door painting

What needs to be done:

* Update website reflecting new exec for 2025-2026
* Announce meetings weekly, have a monthly schedule available & pinned on Instagram
* Have general meeting minutes available & accessible (whether it's on stmsu.ca or a folder linked in our LinkTree)
* I believe our Facebook is linked to the Instagram, double check
* Bring back social media giveaways (merch? Prize baskets?)

**Member of Student Council Annual Report 2024 - 2025 Norah Jacob**

Over the 2024 - 2025 academic year, I have actively participated as a member of the University Students’ Council (USC), Academic Relations Committee (ARC), and University Council (UC). This year involved considerable work across student advocacy, governance reform, and academic policy enhancement. I contributed to efforts addressing affordability, accessibility, safety, academic misconduct, and institutional accountability; all with a commitment to thoughtful collaboration and practical solutions.

University Students’ Council (USC)

This year at USC, I regularly attended meetings and worked with fellow council members and executives to shape student-focused policy. I participated in numerous consultations and voted on motions affecting financial transparency, student wellness, academic integrity, and accessibility. Some highlights include:

· Student Fee Review: I was present for debates and decisions around USSU’s infrastructure, transit, and student fees. Council approved a 5% increase to the undergraduate student fee and a CPI-based increase to the transit fee. I supported efforts to ensure that fee increases were tied to tangible improvements in student services.

· Health & Dental Plan Review: I actively questioned the feasibility of subsidizing the 2024–2025 Studentcare plan, particularly in light of increased utilization rates. I pushed for clarity on how coverage would be maintained or reduced, helping to steer a critical conversation on sustainable student healthcare support.

· Safewalk Service Evaluation: I contributed to discussions on the proposed cessation of USSU’s Safewalk service, asking questions about campus safety trends and the cost-benefit analysis of transferring responsibilities to Protective Services. I inquired about promotion of the USafe app to ensure student awareness during the transition.

· Presidential Search Consultation: I participated in the presidential search consultation and worked with other councillors to define what leadership competencies the next president should embody, particularly in terms of accessibility, community connection, and post-secondary affordability.

· Excellence Awards Reform: I supported the restructuring of the Excellence Awards policy to prevent perceived conflicts of interest during election seasons. Non-teaching awards were moved to a separate ad hoc committee, which I helped create through my participation in multiple motions and policy review discussions.

· Student Legal Service Initiative: I engaged in USC discussions around a new legal support service being planned for students. While still in early development, this project represents progress toward improving access to free legal resources on campus.

· Merchandise Policy & Student Autonomy: USC pushed back on restrictive merchandise guidelines introduced by the university. I supported conversations around ethical sourcing while advocating for student group autonomy.

· Place Riel Naming Proposal: I was present for consultations regarding the proposed renaming of Place Riel North Concourse and supported calls for transparency, donor accountability, and consultation with the student body.

· Student Safety: I joined discussions on improving lighting near McEown Place and advocated for stronger safety infrastructure across campus residences and walkways.

· Food Wastage: I brought up concerns over Marquis Hall wasting food, and had an insightful conversation over the provincial regulations surrounding food being kept out, and PR concerns that could arise.

· Governance Policy Updates: I was active in conversations on election governance and campaign regulations, including a motion restricting campaign activities in libraries. These updates were designed to ensure fair, inclusive, and accessible elections.

· Infrastructure & Budget Review: I supported motions related to the USSU infrastructure fee and participated in Council’s feedback process on capital project priorities, as well as the wider annual budget.

Academic Relations Committee (ARC)

Serving on ARC allowed me to contribute to the advancement of academic quality, equity, and access at USask. Key initiatives and actions I participated in this year include:

· Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA): I assisted in volunteer surveying and in discussions about improving participation and outreach for the TEAs. I also helped shape conversations on extending eligibility to under-recognized instructors and expanding visibility across colleges.

· Excellence Awards Overhaul: I was present for the discussion and motion to divide the Excellence Awards portfolio between teaching and non-teaching awards. This restructuring reduces bias potential and improves award integrity.

· Academic Integrity Education: I contributed to committee conversations on the Academic Integrity Module pilot rollout and helped evaluate its early implementation. This resource aims to reduce misconduct by improving student understanding of policies and expectations.

· Academic Misconduct Reform: I contributed feedback on the Academic Integrity Module and its pilot rollout. We emphasized student education over punishment and advocated for proactive interventions in misconduct-heavy courses.

· System rehaul and AI integration: I have worked closely with Dr. Susan Benz in order to discuss the systematic changes that are being considered as the university revamps their academic policies, with a large focus being placed on how AI would be covered in those panels.

· USSU Undergraduate Symposium: I supported the planning and promotion of the annual symposium, helping with outreach and judging recruitment. I also helped answer student questions and ensured that fine arts and humanities projects were represented fairly.

· AES and Student Supports: I joined in committee-level discussions on concerns related to Access and Equity Services (AES), particularly the delay in accommodations and the need for structural improvements.

· Ceremonies: I aided in organizing and volunteering at the TEA and Symposium ceremonies, as well as gave the introductory speeches on behalf of ARC.

University Council (UC)

As a member of University Council, I participated in meetings governing academic structure, curriculum changes, and university-wide educational policy. My involvement included:

· Voting on Curriculum and Program Changes: I carefully reviewed and voted on motions regarding new programs, course restructurings, and policy amendments that affect undergraduate and graduate students across colleges.

· Academic Oversight: I contributed to oversight and analysis of academic policy changes by drawing from my work on ARC and reflecting student experiences in committee debates.

· Bridging Communication Gaps: I helped ensure that feedback from USC and students at large was brought into UC conversations, particularly around affordability, instructional quality, and policy clarity.

· Bylaw and Procedural Compliance: I stayed informed on USSU and UC bylaws to ensure compliance and continuity of representation. I participated in formal votes concerning member attendance and enforcement of council expectations.

Additional Contributions

· Committee Appointment Participation: I was involved in appointing members to new ad hoc committees, such as the Scholarships and Awards Committee, helping ensure diverse student voices were involved in these important processes.

· Student-City Engagement: I participated in conversations surrounding the Student and City of Saskatoon Connection Committee, which tackled topics such as the new Bus Rapid Transit system and pedestrian safety infrastructure along College Drive.

· STMSU Engagement: As the representative for STM, I regularly attended STMSU meetings and reported USC developments back to the college. I supported planning for events like the STM dance and offered help with engagement strategy.

Conclusion: Throughout the year, I have maintained a strong presence across USSU’s legislative, academic, and representative bodies. My work focused on advancing student priorities, ensuring procedural fairness, and engaging productively with faculty, administration, and peers. I am proud to have contributed to meaningful progress in areas such as academic transparency, affordability, safety, and governance - and I look forward to seeing the continued impact of these initiatives in the years to come.

March 26 STMSU Meeting

Present: Angie R., Henry T., Norah J., Raine R., Caterina E., Jordie F., Jarrod D., Dean S.

Called to order: 2:23pm

1. Reports
	1. MSC- Norah J.: Vote for USSU VP Academic
2. Paint and Plant

- we have 21 plants reserved

- we have 6 in the office

- buy 30 plants? - Jarrod’s job

- buy pots from Dollarama (we have 2 left)

-buy soil

-fine detail paint brushes

-foam brushes

-Henry can setup and join us at 11:15

-Carmela first half

1. Business arising
	1. Elections: email out a list to candidates
	2. Date for cleaning?- Discuss next meeting
	3. For elections: let all STM students know how to become an executive member, as well as date of AGM
		1. You need to contact Dean or Richard to send out specifically STM emails

Adjourned: 2:33pm