1. **Call to Order**

*Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair, calls the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.*

**1.1 Roll Call**

*Aodhan Murphy performs roll call.*

1. **Approval of Agenda**

**Resolution 116-20**

***That*** *Council adopts the agenda for April 11, 2021, with the amendment of adding the awards announcement and switching agenda items 5.1 and 5.2.*

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Representative

**The motion is carried.**

1. **Chair's Remarks**
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

**Resolution 117-20**

***That*** *Council approves the minutes for March 28, 2021, with the amendment of fixing the spelling of Cordel to Kordel.*

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Coordinator

**The motion is carried.**

1. **Substantive Business**

**5.1 Councillor Updates**

*Annaka Roscoe has no updates.*

*Brennan Marks attended the NBSA Review Committee meeting.*

*Breana Andrews sat in on a Student Life and Awards Committee meeting. She also has been meeting with individuals interested in her position as Indigenous Councillor.*

*Katelynn Pickel-Macdonald had a board meeting for the Women’s Centre, and they discussed transition for next year.*

*Mia Scalabrin is absent.*

*Mridul Sharma participated in the Breaking Stereotypes campaign.*

*Nihla Houssain sat in a Student Life and Awards Committee meeting*

*Fareeha Quayyam participated in the Breaking Stereotypes campaign. She also met with Angela from the Human Rights office to discuss how she can be more involved in her councillor project next year as a volunteer.*

**5.2 Second Reading of Bylaw and Policy Amendments**

Sean MacKenzie, President: “The bylaws are the same as last week other than the small motion/change that we added in last week (to make the title - Part-time Student Councillor). The policy which we are seeking to have approved is the Executive Position Description Policy. Grace did a lot of work on this policy. However, we did work as a team to make notes on what changes we need to make to each position description. We also took note of what needs to be added because, for some reason, there was no description for the VP Communications role. Everything should be in there, and if there are any questions, I will try my best or will pass it off to the right person to answer.”

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: “Any questions for Sean?

Okay, Sean, could you please make the motion that Council passes the amendments of listed policies and bylaws on second reading?”

**Resolution 118-20**

***That*** *Council approves the second reading of the Executive Position Description Policy.*

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

**The motion is carried.**

**5.3 NBSA Presentation**

Wasiimah Joomun, NBSA Guest Speaker: “Hi everyone, I am the Executive Director of the New Brunswick Student Alliance. I am calling from the unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi’kmaq people, also known as Fredericton, New Brunswick. I go by she/her pronouns. Thank you again for having me. We decided to organize the document’s main points under four main pillars, which begin with the first: improve and maintain sound financial management. When I took the role, I was not as knowledgeable about financial management, and the organization was not in good financial standing per se. Not to go into too much detail, but I worked on taxes two years ago when I started. Hopefully, anyone incoming onto the NBSA will consider that and work to improve that.

The second is to provide a strong voice for students. One thing that we are struggling with is that students don’t know what the NBSA is. It would be essential to have a pillar that reflects having a voice for students. For example, fostering positive relationships with stakeholders, whether that be students, government officials, or any third party that we’re negotiating with, allows for that clear line of communication and transparency. For instance, our budget has not been posted on our website for quite some time, and that is something that we thought would be necessary to be clear about with students. Now we have our budget that was approved for next year on our website.

The third is to enhance and communicate the NBSA brand. Be it communicating more with SU’s and any communications person, or be it delegates sitting on the NBSA board. We want to ensure that whatever material we are putting out is being pushed to your students and constitutions.

I will now go over the four pillars, and if anyone has any questions or if I’m speaking too fast, please let me know, and I will be happy to entertain questions at any point.

**The first pillar is in regards to NBSA’s internal management.**
Firstly, we’d like to **improve financial management**. I thought having an annual review of monetary policies would be very beneficial for the organization for two reasons: the yearly turnover rate of the Board of Directors and because we tend to have a new executive director every year. We’ve had six executive directors over the past four years. Having something written down on paper that states we must conduct an annual review would benefit the organization in the long run. Ensuring that we can present our financial policies to any incoming board member and informing everyone on the operating budget and how it’s developed at an earlier time than was done this year would be helpful to the consultation with all student unions. We’d also like to conduct more updates between the Board and the NBSA home office on how we’re doing financially. Again, these are student dollars, and we want to ensure that students know where their money is going.

Additionally, we’d like to have an annual financial audit. We think it would be beneficial to have a professional come in and conduct an audit because we often see that the Executive Director, such as myself, is not as financially equipped. They could also provide this report to outgoing and incoming NBSA members to be aware of where student dollars have been going. Going back to the first point, we’d like to increase student member engagement and development processing. I look forward to having more consultations about the budget next year instead of static updates that state what we have. Finally, the last part of financial management is providing regular budget updates. I recognize that I did that only twice over my term. Next year, we will update the Board of Directors regularly as to how we’re doing financially.

The second part of internal management is **internal governance**. We have realized that those taking on the Board of Directors roles may not be very accustomed to the bylaws and policies. This year we had a very late start due to COVID-19, but and in future years, we hope that the Board will be starting earlier and will have a review of the bylaws and policies so that students know what to expect from the NBSA. We want students to be able to hold the NBSA accountable for their decision-making and the process. To do so and for our Board of Directors to hold us responsible, we must be transparent. Another aspect is comprehensive education for all incoming boards. We want to participate in workshops and professional development classes regarding how to succeed with internal management and even refresh Roberts Rules.

We need to ensure everyone is on the same page rather than assume that everyone knows what they’re doing. One point that came up when we were doing our review at the AGM and one that I heard from you guys and professional development. We’ve broken this topic down into two, the first being professional development for the Board of Directors. Here we would focus on ensuring everyone knows how to work with policies and find opportunities outside of the organization, like guest speakers. This is an opportunity for students to network, engage, and build on their skills. We feel like we could be doing a lot better to prepare directors for their role and their transition out of their position. Secondly, we’d like to work on the professional development of the Executive Director and any other home office staff. That’s something I would have appreciated, being someone who was put into this role. During the pandemic, I had my transition online, but if there had been professional development allocated to Executive Directors, that would have been very beneficial. It could have even been financial management. Finances aren’t my strong suit, so having some financial management guidance could have been helpful for me. I recognize that. Now having it on paper to present to the Council and the Board of Directors, they will hold me accountable for that. That wraps up the first pillar. If anyone has any questions, I would be happy to entertain them now, or I can keep going and discuss the second pillar.”

Christopher Arisz, Law Councillor: “I have a question. You mentioned that there have been six Executive Directors in the past four years. Is that abnormally high?”

Wasiimah Joomun: “Yes, because the NBSA contract is for two years. The NBSA is like a stepping stone, so usually, post-graduates take on this role and after a year they tend to go their own way. For an organization to maintain that institutional memory is hard when you have such a high turnover rate. For instance, if I was leaving this organization at the end of this term then people would have to recreate the wheel after I leave. So, I’m hoping that by having a solid internal strategic plan then people will be tempted to stay in this position for longer and help with the overall growth of the organization rather than recreate the wheel every year. It is not recommended for an organization to have such a high turnover in such a short amount of time.

If no one has any other questions then I’ll go into pillar two. Again, feel free to ask questions at any point in time.

**The second pillar is on membership organization and student engagement.**

The first aspect of this is our internal communications plan which was discussed at our AGM this year. Folks expressed that it would be very beneficial to have a rough timeline of planning to put any material out on our social media or push to our students. Internally, in your own SU, you have a timetable, so we want to ensure that we are pushing information to students and giving it the space they need. We would like to have a rough timeline prepared for when we want posts to go out during the summer or the beginning of the academic year. Also, having a shared Google folder where all of our infographics can be found would be helpful. This way, your VP Communications can access our posters and post them in their own time. There is only so much the NBSA can push out. You guys are the primary contact for your constituents. Our social media presence this year has increased a lot. We've released our newsletter, which was a first for the NBSA, and we already have some people subscribed. However, we do want to expand on this, especially now with COVID-19. Things seem to be going back in person, but it would still be nice to continue with this online engagement. This is why we thought that having an internal communications plan for the Board of Directors or any VP Communications was associated with any SU's to push communication materials to your constituents.

Another aspect of this pillar is providing students with a stronger voice. I thought it would be a great idea to engage students on how the NBSA decides its priorities. We could conduct an annual survey perhaps in the summer before we decide on our priorities. The survey would go out to all of the students across the province, asking what they want the NBSA to advocate for them. I think this would be a great way to engage students and keep them informed. If they feel like they have a say as to what we do in the future, then they will likely stay engaged with the NBSA in the future as well. It will also increase our accountability if we put this survey out as students will be able to say 'you said you would do this,' or 'you had a survey out.'" We'd also like to engage students who are non-board members in our committee work and policymaking. How the NBSA works is that once we've decided our priorities, we strike committees based on those priorities which the Board of Directors sits on. I thought it would be a great idea to have students who are not involved as the Board of Directors volunteer their time to sit on these committees. We would put an open call out there to say 'we have these committees' and hope to have three or four students sit on the committees they are passionate about. This initiative would alleviate the workload that the Board of Directors might have and engage students, providing them with a stronger voice in the NBSA. Too often, students feel like the NBSA is a separate entity from them when really, they represent the organization, so I feel like they need to have a bigger say when it comes to decisions made in future years. Finally, we'd like to grow to partner with non-member institutions. This is something we have started looking into this year. For instance, we have a strong partnership with La FÉÉCUM, the francophone part of the NBSA, which works with UdM and other institutions across the province. We do have a common goal in many ways, like to extend growth and maybe to have them included as non-members or observer status on our Board of Directors. This partnership would unify our voices and bring together a holistic and inclusive approach. I'm hoping to continue with this initiative next year.

The third point of organizational outreach is running campaigns that are student-focused. If you look at the NBSA budget, we have money allocated for campaigns that the Board of Directors can access, but I think it would be beneficial to have at least one student-focused campaign per semester. It would be helpful to identify what student issues need to be addressed. We'd also like to increase partnerships with student groups. For example, if we work on an international student policy, we could perhaps consult different international student organizations and individuals focused on this topic on individual campuses. This would be a great way to get more consultation done and engage more students in work. The last part is in regards to transparency. We want to release more information to students and the public. The home office is expected to make a monthly update to the website, and any current policies that have been approved will also have to be posted to the website.

Along with this, we'd like to make our website more user-friendly as our policies have previously been very hidden. We are working on revamping our website and ensuring that information is easily accessible for students. We also want to communicate what we're working on via social media. For example, this year, our Board of Directors worked on excellent policies, but it was not promoted on social media. Having a post that says 'we will approve \_\_\_\_ policy at \_\_\_\_ board meeting and you can find it on our website' would be a great way to direct students to check out what the NBSA is doing and hold us accountable.

That concludes pillar two. I will now open it up to questions if anyone has any.

Seeing none, I will jump into the third pillar, which is **policy and research development**. At the NBSA, stakeholders take us seriously because of how we develop our policies. They are immensely research and data-based, so people trust that whatever policy we're presenting, we've done in-depth research on it. We want to do an annual review of all of our existing policies because there were outdated policies for quite some time on our website. In the beginning, when board members are coming in, we'd like to make it a duty to review all of these policies and clean up before we go into the new year. It will ensure the organization runs smoothly and everyone is up-to-date as to what we're doing. In terms of developing new policies, we'd like to gauge what students are looking for. This is another area where I think having an annual survey would be very beneficial and would, in turn, help develop our new policies to be reflective of students' needs.

The second part of this pillar is student-driven policy development. Again, this was brought up by our Board of Directors. Students don't understand how our policies are made. When I was given this position, no one told me how the policies are developed, so I had to learn on my own. However, I recognize that we should have had a training session to go in-depth into NBSA's policy development.

Another thing is more excellent institutional memory storage. Due to the high turnover rate of Executive Directors, we have struggled with this for a few years. Policies usually take more than a year to develop, so they must be pushed over the years. It would be helpful to consolidate our Google Drive as it has been difficult to retrieve information from previous years from our archives. My goal is that whoever will be the incoming Executive Director (ED) will find everything they need either in the home office or the main computer. We need to build more excellent information storage on our website as well. We need to have an NBSA navigation for PSA-specific information on our website. People often don't know what PSA or PETL or similar acronyms are. It would be helpful to have information like this on what the government is doing for post-secondary education so that people know where the province is heading in terms of the future and education. It would be a microsite on our website to facilitate that conversation and increase that transparency. We'd also like to recognize the source of publication. The NBSA has been collaborating with other people to submit publications. For instance, we worked with other provincial organizations across the country to release a shared publication called *Shared Perspective*. In the past, we've released some on sexual violence, and this year we are releasing one on COVID-19 and the stress that came with the pandemic. We think this is a great way to expose the NBSA to other people and showcase the work we've been doing. The publications will also provide more concise information as to what we've been doing.

That is pillar four, and we have one last one, but I will first open it up for questions.

Okay, last one, **advocacy and outreach**. This entails building more robust partner networks. We want to investigate new methods to collaborate with maritime partners. Often, issues that students in New Brunswick are facing are probably being faced by students in Nova Scotia as well. We'd like to have a joint campaign with Student NS, the NBSA for Nova Scotia or UPEI Student Union. This would be beneficial to solidify the voices and show them to the government, as we're more likely to get an outcome if we represent ourselves as a unified voice. We'd also like to have regular conversations with PETL and increase our representation at the provincial government level.

I've been lucky enough to be invited to sit on several committees. I'm currently a key member for students on the Future NB Strategy Leadership Team, where we just talked to the institution and other stakeholders about experiential learning in the province. I also sit on the local immigration partnership where we're talking about making international students feel more comfortable when they feel unwelcome. I'm trying to broaden our outreach to give students a voice in places where they deserve it. Potential community partners fit into this as well. We'd love to work with more non-profit organizations with similar goals to us. I know that there is a housing/rent issue at the moment. We want to work on this to ensure that students aren't being left out because often people are fighting heavily for a problem, PSA members and students are left out. We want to collaborate on this to give room for the student's voice. We'd also want to consider more partnerships with internal and external groups, whether on-campus or in the community. We want to bring a solidified voice for the organization and outreach more broadly than we have been.

The last part is just me recognizing that different governments have different priorities. For example, with the liberal government in the past, things have run more smoothly. However, with the conservative government, they tend not to see the value or importance of post-secondary education. Even the fact that we can be in conversations with them is a win sometimes. The NBSA and I are trying to make the government see the importance of post-secondary education and the value of investing in retaining students in the province. The last thing I'll say is that the Board of Directors can hold me, as in the organization, accountable in future years. We must provide regular monthly updates at the board meeting to go over the strategy and update what has been done so far to increase accountability. Now I'll wrap up and open the floor to questions.”

 Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: “I just have a quick question for you. First, thank you for your presentation. It was very well put together and substantial. In your opinion, and the Board of Director’s perspective, which one of these changes do you think students will see the soonest? What time frame are we looking at? As you mentioned, you have another year to go and obviously, that means someone new will be taking on the ED role next year. In the period of the rest of your term, what do you think will be realistically achievable?”

Wasiimah Joomun: “That’s a really good question. For instance, I see the annual survey can be conducted sometime this summer while we are deciding priorities and the consultation can be ongoing. So there are some things that can be done short-term as soon as the Board of Directors has transitioned into the new role. We would present the internal plan to them and go from there. I’d also be able to put together the internal communications plan and update the website. I foresee this plan to be an ongoing project for the entire year rather than ‘we will make the plan and that’s it.’ It should be consistent over the years. Also, our website and social media are ongoing projects, but that’s why I believe the monthly check-in with the Board of Directors will be really beneficial to hold the ED accountable on a recurring basis. That would be the timeline per se. Hopefully, at the AGM we can provide a report on the internal strategic plan and give updates to what has and has not worked, what needs to be implemented next year, and really build onto that plan for years to come. My goal is to begin implementing this as soon as the new board is transitioned in May.”

Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor: “Thank you for coming and presenting. One of my main concerns with the NBSA was your challenges in regards to advocating when different parties are in office. I’m glad that you touched on this towards the end. I was wondering if you could identify so far, as a lobbying group, any specific approaches to the issue? For example, what has and has not worked as well as how we can move forward?”

Wasiimah Joomun: “Again, that’s a good question. Having a government with different parties in power is challenging for an organization like the NBSA. What I’ve noticed works is when we are confident of what we are bringing to the table. What else is beneficial is the respect that the NBSA receives at meetings and the voice which we have as an organization to advocate for students. For example, I met with the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Women’s Equity Branch to go over some concerns that were brought up in the Sexual Violence Roundtable. The fact that they were so open to taking our feedback into consideration or the fact that we can reach ministers with our concerns is definitely beneficial. It is tricky to work with the conservative government who does not see post-secondary education as a priority, but we do find it beneficial to keep a close relationship with the Department of Post-secondary Education, Training and Labour. One thing that our organization has done well is that our Executive Director has a close relationship with that department so we receive calls from the Deputy Minister asking to sit on committees when decisions are being made. It’s a great way to get our voice out there. Also, the fact that when we take meetings with people, they recognize what we’ve advocated for in the past. I hope that the NBSA continues to advocate for these issues so that people and the government can recognize what we advocate for so long. I don’t know if that answered your question because it is tricky to work with different governments that have different priorities. Keeping the conversation going and making sure we continue lobbying is important to us.”

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “I just have a comment on something I believe a few of us were hoping to see on this plan in regards to how the NBSA would support different unions and organizations that aren’t within the NBSA. Just a plan on how to support them. I guess we saw this year when we were without a VP Advocacy that the relationship with the NBSA was very much the NBSA asking the different organizations for things and not so much the NBSA supporting the different unions. So we were hoping to see a plan moving forward on how the NBSA would support the different unions or student groups within the NBSA.”

 Wasiimah Joomun: “Another really great question. The way the organization operates is that you have the President and the VP Advocacy sitting on the organization and dictating that. The support is coming from other student unions as well because our capacity as an organization is not to the max. Slowly as we’re growing as an organization, we will have more full-time staff. Another thing that I may have forgotten to mention is that we’re hoping to open any professional development to council members from any student union. For instance, if we are having a professional development workshop on financial management then we’d open that to any VP Finance at any student union to attend. That would provide not only the financial development skills but would also create a bond between the SU and the NBSA. We would try to support the organization as a whole as well. We’d also like to create a more open space. One thing that I didn’t mention is that I’m thinking about consulting with the next board and proposing that the next Executive Director holds office hours so that students can come ask questions about what I’m doing in my role and what the NBSA is doing as an organization. I have found as Executive Director that I’m just working in my office and so very often people don’t know what I’m doing. I guess creating a more open communication to the SU’s through their VP Advocacy and President is how I can foresee us being able to better support the SU’s and whatever way the next board decides to take on.”

 Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: “I just wanted to add a follow-up to the point that Grace had raised. I think it was incredibly challenging for this executive team to go without a VP Advocacy and I understand that the responsibility then falls on our VP Internal whose role is challenging on its own. I think it’s unfortunate that we weren't able to receive as much support as we had hoped for from the NBSA. Something I’d recommend to the organization, and I recognize Wasiimah when you say most of the support from the NBSA would be expected to come from other groups, but I think it would be beneficial to develop a procedure within the NBSA for if a union is without a President or VP Advocacy or the equivalent. I recognize this would need to first be brought to the board and discussed. It would be important to think about how the NBSA could facilitate that ongoing dialogue between unions to gain that extra support in terms of the advocacy role. The point of the NBSA, as I see it, in a sense is bringing together the different unions in the province and I think it is the responsibility of the NBSA to facilitate that communication and support. I think it would be beneficial to create a formal procedure for when that is the case so that we can better support our members.”

Wasiimah Joomun: “Yeah, absolutely. I don’t think any of our bylaws address what to do when a role is unfulfilled. I really appreciate this recommendation and I will begin looking into it and working on it and hopefully presenting it to our next board as the last board meeting for the current board is next week. Again, as the Executive Director and someone who is not a student, I am unable to take on any position as a board member as it is entirely student-led. It goes against the bylaws - I am unable to make any decisions, for instance, this year I could not lead any committee but according to our internal governance, I should not be involved in committees at all because it is biased since I work for the NBSA. However, we can definitely have a more formalized version of your recommendation go into our bylaws and internal governance. I will look into this, thank you!”

Elizabeth Herbert, Education Representative: “I appreciate all of the points that you have made for us. In pillars 1 and 2, there are a lot of solutions to fix problems that you’ve identified which is great. I look forward to seeing what you accomplish by the end of your term. I’m just wondering if there are any plans that you’ve made or things you hope to implement that will stop these issues from arising in the future? Some of them, like having an outdated website and not utilizing social media, seem like strange problems to have in 2021. So I was just wondering if you had any plans of how to not encounter such problems in the future?”

 Wasiimah Joomun: “Definitely. I think it goes back to the way the NBSA transitions new roles. For example, I transitioned over two days, online. One thing I hope to do near the end of my role is to hire the next Executive Director way more in advance so that they have the opportunity to sit in meetings and get adjusted to the role before the incoming board transitions. I believe this way, the ED can better support the Board of Directors. This is something I struggled with within this role. I was learning about this role and offering support to a new BD so it was a really rough start for everyone and we made it through because the board was amazing anyways. I feel like if I had been settled at the beginning of the summer then we would have got more work done. That’s one way of handling this problem. Another thing is that this year, we applied for an internship through Experiential Learning at STU because we’d like to have more student interns work for us. Very often, certain tasks of the Executive Director tend to go on the back burner as they have so much to manage. However, having an intern dedicated to working on certain things would be very beneficial. For instance, our current intern has helped us out a lot with social media and even created a transition document for whoever decides to take on this role after. Having more documents, rather than people starting from nothing, is how we see ourselves moving forward and handling this issue. This will result in better communication and a clear plan. Going back to Téa’s point, we need to have more written in our internal governance and at the beginning of each term, thoroughly go through that with our Board of Governors. A lot of our internal governance was not even presented to our Board of Directors this year, which I recognize was something we should have done better. Also, when I look at my transition document, it was just copied and pasted from the previous one. There are no updates or anything like that. So better transition of the ED and better communication of our internal memory would be beneficial for our organization.”

Téa Fazio: “Going off of the point you made, I think the perspective that I have of the NBSA is that we have a thorough review of the internal governance structure and the policies because I think that one of the side effects of the current infrastructure is that a lot of work is falling on the board members and it seems a bit overwhelming as there is no formal training process and there is no infrastructure to support those processes. I think it ends up being a lot of work. I hope with more formalized processes and procedures and whatnot, that can help take the workload off of the board members. I will say that doing a review of all of the policies and bylaws seems like a very large task as a goal to undertake. We did something similar in our union this past year or at least started to, and it was a monster of a task. I don’t sit on the UNBSU Policy Committee, but I know you’ve been working very hard this year. I was just wondering, Wasiimah, how you envision doing a review of all of the policies and bylaws? Given that there are so many changes outlined in your document and that in of itself is a huge undertaking.”

Wasiimah Joomun: “Yeah, so one thing is after our AGM, Sara and Patrick had a chat and that’s something that I started working on is our Google Drive currently has so much information on this. So far, the way I have been accessing information is just typing it in and finding it. I’m working on slowly cleaning it up and creating folders so that when I leave this organization, all of the information is out there so that if they were to do an annual review of internal policy they would have all of the policies right there. Usually, when we’re in-person at conferences, we would spend about a week going over internal policies to see if they are still relevant. On our drive, we have policies that have already been worked on. For instance, Experiential Learning is a policy we decided to no longer have as the government has already implemented it. We’ve archived it into a folder in our Drive. I see this process being smooth due to the organizing of the Google Drive, which makes it easier for the NBSA to easily access internal information in future years.”

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: “Thank you, Wasiimah!”

Wasiimah Joomun: “Thank you for having me and if anyone has any remaining questions then I’m always willing to chat. My email address and phone number are available online and at the top of the document. I’ll make it available in the chat. Thank you so much for the opportunity and good luck with exams and the rest of the academic year.”

Aodhan Murphy: “Did you want to go in-camera for the rest of the discussion or discuss publically?”

Sean MacKenzie, President: “I think for transparency sake, it may be best to stay in public for this discussion? If any member feels that they aren’t comfortable then we can go in-camera.”

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance and Operations: “I feel that if you want honest feedback, we should go in-camera. The conversation is more honest and we can discuss certain points.”

Sean MacKenzie: “Yep, that’s a good point.”

Aodhan Murphy: “Does anyone else have any comments on this? Adriana, you can call the motion and people can vote in if they want.”

Adriana Lefort: “Yeah, I’ll make the motion for Council to have this discussion in-camera.”

**Resolution 119-20**

***That*** *Council goes in-camera for the NBSA Presentation discussion.*

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance and Operations

Seconder: Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor

**The motion is carried.**

*Council motions to return to an in-person session.*

**5.4 Honorary Membership Recommendations**

Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: “As most of you know, we had the Student Union Recognition Awards on Friday. It went very well and we were very happy to see each other one last time. For the folks who could not attend, I hope to see you again in person. In terms of the honorary membership, we have awarded Ayub Chishti and Terri Noble and we’re looking to ratify this. I would like to make the motion to properly estate Ayub Chishti and Terri Noble as honorary members of the Student Union.

**Resolution 120-20**

***That*** *Council* ratifies Ayub Chishti and Terri Noble as honorary members of the Student Union.

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life

Seconder: Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor

**The motion is carried.**

**5.5 Preliminary Budget 2021-22**

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance and Operations: “I will try to go through the preliminary budget as thoroughly as I can without taking too much time, as we are running late tonight.

Revenues

The first row is an estimation of how many students will be back in the fall semester. As we previously discussed, we are now representing part-time students, whose levy is $29 per student, so our estimate is $15,950 in total. Sponsorship revenue went up due to the Safe-Ride contract. The DrinkSmart name changed to Alcohol and Cannabis Education (ACE). We made entertainment revenue a bit lower than usual because I don’t expect us to make as much in terms of entertainment. We returned the orientation revenue to what it would be for a typical in-person year in hopes that it will be a little bit normal next year. Our total revenue is estimated to be $2,221,210. We’ve gone up based on our part-time students.”

Expenses

We increased expenses because of how much it was this year, and if next year is in-person, they will need those extra funds. We will have to look into legal coverage because I believe it was significantly higher this year than it should be. We returned the advocacy program expense to what it would be in a regular year. We also increased the multicultural program expense by $1000 in hopes that we can do more in-person. Councillor honoraria increased because when the First-year Councillor position was added, the budget was not adjusted accordingly. We hope to have a councillor orientation in person, so we increased that portion of the budget. Health and dental insurance now include part-time students, so that was increased. Campaigns and promotions increased due to hopes of having an in-person academic year. The Welcome Centre rent increased because we were not paying rent over the summer, but this year, if it is fully in-person, we will require that council pays rent for this summer and academic year. Conferences went up partially in hopes of having more and attending more. The executive development row increased as we would like the incoming team to receive more training from the beginning. The reserve fund went down as they will likely have less of a surplus next year if any at all. Elections went down as if it is in-person. They will not require as many funds as the online elections did.

Orientation is an in and out expense, but we returned it to a traditional amount. The Book Buy and Sell event is happening this year, but it's also an in and out expense. We boosted the ACE expense as though it is a traditional year. Services-related honoraria were altered; however, I will review this in-depth towards the end. Part-time employees increased as we hope to have more staff at the Welcome Centre in the fall. We boosted entertainment to have a lot more in-person activities next year hopefully. Our SafeRide costs increased a bit due to the purchase of the suvs. In total, we estimated a surplus of $450. Still, as I mentioned, this is just a preliminary budget, and the revised budget will look different depending on what happens in the fall.

I will now review the positions which we added that affected the services-related honoraria budget. We added a Garden Coordinator because that was not there originally. We added a Policy Coordinator upon the recommendations to our incoming executives. We did an overview of the budget with the incoming VP of Finance and President. We determined this Coordinator would help out with all of the policy work, including all of the reviews of policies. I also changed the name of the DrinkSmart Coordinator to the ACE Coordinator.

Those are all of the changes. If anyone has questions, I'd be happy to answer them.”

Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor: “In terms of the entertainment expenses, would the students who didn’t experience orientation this year be included in the orientation for next year?”

Adriana Lefort: “Orientation is a separate expense from the entertainment expense. We did estimate costs that we would have in a regular year. In terms of whether they want to include the second-year students for orientation, I know they’ve had this conversation. They’ve discussed dipping into the reserve fund that wasn’t used this year. I can’t make any promises because it’s not coming from my end.”

**Resolution 121-20**

***That*** *Council* approves the preliminary budget with the amendment that budget line 54021 NBSA is stricken.

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life

Seconder: Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: “I need four people to raise their hand to call for a vote by role. This will be the first motion where I have to call on voting members so I might just read off of this list, but if I miss anyone then please let me know. When I call you please say ‘for,’ ‘abstain,’ or ‘against.’”

*Abhiiraj Nikam votes for the motion.*

*Anna Lee Leblanc votes for the motion.*

*Adriana Lefort abstains from the motion.*

*Annaka Roscoe votes for the motion.*

*Brennan Marks votes for the motion.*

*Breana Andrews votes for the motion.*

*Christopher Arisz votes for the motion.*

*Elizabeth Herbert votes for the motion.*

*Fareeha Quayyum votes for the motion.*

*Grace Pelkey abstains from the motion.*

*Jharana Luitel votes for the motion.*

*Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald votes for the motion.*

*Lidia Shibre votes for the motion.*

*Madeleine Smith votes for the motion.*

*Matt Douglas votes for the motion.*

*Molly Pittman votes for the motion.*

*Mridul Sharma votes for the motion.*

*Nihla Hussain votes for the motion.*

*Sean MacKenzie abstains from the motion.*

*Téa Fazio abstains from the motion.*

*Vishnu Vardhan abstains from the motion.*

*Xiuming Shi votes for the motion.*

Aodhan Murphy: “Did I miss anyone? No? Okay, that leaves us with 17 for yes and five abstentions.”

**The motion is carried.**

Aodhan Murphy: “We will have to do this process again for the second motion.”

**Resolution 122-20**

***That*** *Council authorizes the current Executive Councillors to amend the 2021-22 preliminary budget to reinstate budget line 54201 NBSA by way of a majority vote by current Executive Councillors after receiving independent legal advice and consulting with incoming Executive Councillors.*

Mover: Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Councillor

Seconder: Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor

Aodhan Murphy: “I need four people to express their support for the vote by role. Is there any discussion before we call a vote?”

*Abhiiraj Nikam votes for the motion.*

*Anna Lee Leblanc votes for the motion.*

*Adriana Lefort abstains from the motion.*

*Annaka Roscoe votes for the motion.*

*Brennan Marks votes for the motion.*

*Breana Andrews votes for the motion.*

*Christopher Arisz votes for the motion.*

*Elizabeth Herbert votes for the motion.*

*Fareeha Quayyum votes for the motion.*

*Grace Pelkey abstains from the motion.*

*Jharana Luitel votes for the motion.*

*Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald votes for the motion.*

*Lidia Shibre votes for the motion.*

*Madeleine Smith votes for the motion.*

*Matt Douglas votes for the motion.*

*Molly Pittman votes for the motion.*

*Mridul Sharma votes for the motion.*

*Nihla Hussain votes for the motion.*

*Sean MacKenzie abstains from the motion.*

*Téa Fazio abstains from the motion.*

*Vishnu Vardhan abstains from the motion.*

*Xiuming Shi votes for the motion.*

**The motion is carried.**

**5.6 EDI Plan**

Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: “I will go through the plan section by section, but I want to clarify to the Council that this is not the final draft of the EDI plan. Unfortunately, because I was out sick for a few weeks, this is not completed. The plan I’m presenting is the first draft and is just a compilation of all of the information I have received to date. It still needs to be sent to different groups of people. I intend to receive feedback from Council, and I will finish the plan this summer to present it to the new Council in September.

To start, I have the mission and vision statement, which are essentially stating what the purpose of this plan is - to increase equity, diversity, and inclusion at the UNBSU. I have also included a separate Purpose of the EDI Plan section, which states that the plan supports underrepresented and marginalized people in our campus community and also states that this is a recommendation plan, so it is not dictating that any of these actions need to happen, they are just recommendations that would be good to do. My intention for this plan was to be similar to a reference document like the strategic plan.

I then have definitions for equity, diversity and inclusion because if we’re using this language, then it’s important to understand what it means in this context. Equity means ‘Equal treatment and access to opportunities for underrepresented and marginalized people and groups, with recognition of privilege, barriers, and biases.’ Diversity is ‘A group of people with different lived experiences and perspectives including race, ethnicity, ancestry, gender identity, sexual orientation, disabilities, age, and socio-economic class.’ Finally, inclusion means ‘Promoting diversity in communities by intentionally addressing inequities in power and privilege and by creating welcoming and respectful environments for everyone.’ Does anyone have any comments or concerns with the definitions?

The first section of the plan focuses on amplifying student voices. The point is to improve our collective voice as a union by putting more effort into ensuring that voices from the marginalized community are amplified. There’s a list of short-term actions as well as a few long-term actions. The long-term actions intend that short-term actions support them, so I have this defined at the end of the document, ‘The EDI Plan should be reviewed every 1-2 years to determine new short-term actions the outlined goals. This plan should be revised every three years to maintain consistency with the Union’s internal structures and EDI priorities. An EDI progress presentation should occur annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the UNB Student Union to ensure transparency in assessing our progress completing the short and long term goals.’ I have a few points highlighted as changes made to what was sent to you and what I’m presenting tonight. We changed the review of roles to ‘council roles’ as it’s still encompassing executive roles, but I didn’t feel it necessary to say executive explicitly. I also added the point about the development of a promotional strategy to make hiring opportunities visible and appealing. I know Adriana has put a lot of work into this, so it’s not something we need to start doing, but rather continue throughout the year. Are there any questions or concerns on this section or just general feedback?”

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance and Operations: “I just wanted to add that I haven’t implemented anything yet. I just have a massive document of research.”

 Téa Fazio: “Yeah and I would hope that since they continue to develop that it properly encompasses that. I just want to have recognition for the work that you’ve done and then the development process can continue to be formalized.

So, the next section is about celebrating diversity, which many people expressed the importance for, which is why I made it its section. This section encompasses the SU recognizing the benefits to both our community and us as thanks to the diversity and promoting diverse cultures positively. I think a lot of rhetoric to diverse cultures can often be addressing issues. Still, it’s important to make sure we don’t skew the perspectives of certain groups because we’re only talking about negative things. It's important to be positive. Again, short-term actions, long-term actions, becoming more aware of different cultural practices that would be important for the SU to recognize, as well as taking on a bigger role in working with community groups that already exist, celebrate and promote those things, making sure UNBSU takes on a supporting role and dedicating spaces to certain community groups. I know that the SUB has already been taking this on. I want to make sure that this is a long-term objective for the SU because groups must have places to gather. This has been the first year for the Global Gala, and we got a lot of positive feedback, so that was also included in this section. Are there any questions, comments or concerns on where any of this came from or any thoughts?”

 Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor: “I have a question. I believe that in a previous council meeting, it was mentioned that the council doesn’t refer to any religious holidays and festivals so is that a consideration that you’ve made?”

 Téa Fazio: “Yeah, absolutely. It was something that I thought about because the initial research I did on this topic did include religious holidays, but I felt that because it is quite significant for the UNBSU to remain neutral on that topic, I decided to leave that out of the plan. I recognize that religion and culture can be intertwined and so I know it might be difficult in terms of implementation. My perspective was that it’s better to stray away from the religious side of things, if possible.”

Madeleine Smith: “Yeah, it might be something to look into a bit more. I know it’s kind of a Western ideology to separate religion from regular events and even from institutions. You may want to look at how it affects different cultures, for example, whether it’s disrespectful to mention a festival without recognizing its religious background.”

Téa Fazio: “That’s a really good point.

For the next section, the focus is on consultation and outreach because I think that was a major aspect of developing this plan and it’s a major aspect of EDI in the Union. We want to ensure the Union has a supportive presence (isn't speaking over other voices) and actively seeks feedback from diverse groups of students. So this includes, supporting councillors by creating a guide for councillors on approaching diverse conversations without tokenizing, to be included in the Councillor Handbook. I’ve received feedback from people saying that they are nervous about going into conversations like that because they don’t know how to approach it. I think having some kind of support system in place would help with everyone’s roles. The SU Executive meets on a monthly basis with representatives of marginalized groups (such as the Chairs of the 203 and the UWC). This comes from the fact that we already meet administration once a month. If it’s possible to get everyone in a room together, it would be great to do check-ins similar to what we do with administration. Develop a confidential system for students to report EDI concerns or ideas to the Union, to be addressed by the EDI committee. One of the major components of this plan was the creation of an EDI committee. This comes from looking at other EDI plans, most include an EDI committee. I think it would be an improvement for the Union, with the specific focus of it being an advisory committee. I think that it’s important to note that the purpose of this committee is not to further the work of representatives from marginalized communities, but rather to engage in regular dialogue. This is one of the bigger changes in the plan so I would love it if you folks could share your thoughts.”

Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: “I think a small committee composed of council members could be simple and helpful to initiate and you can gauge interest from there.”

Sean MacKenzie, President: “What if, and this may be something you’ve thought of already and if it is then no worries, but what if this EDI group served as ‘what does the SU have coming up or what have they done previously that could be improved in the future and what are some things we need to look at for this upcoming thing to support all students across campus?’ That’s along the lines of what I imagined for the EDI group, but I was wondering if that’s similar to what you pictured? Of course, you’d also be looking at internal structure and stuff too.”

 Téa Fazio: “I saw it as very much what you just said. I didn’t elaborate much, but when I said look at initiatives and events with an EDI lens, it’s very much anytime something new comes forward and we're not sure of it, we can send it to the EDI committee and they can review it or change it as needed. The chair of the committee would be responsible for moving forward with the process. It’s also a committee to bounce ideas off of because with my Advocacy committee, that’s how I get regular feedback. I believe it’s important to get feedback from specific groups of people. So, for the council representatives who are listed here, is this something that would have been beneficial for your role this past year? Just to touch on the long-term actions, something we discussed as an executive was working with recruitment to build initial connections with incoming students so that we can get them in the loop immediately and build connections with them and also get feedback on new cohorts of students on what they want to see for EDI from the Union.

The next section is empowering leadership which focuses more on internal things but also that the Union provides opportunities for diverse student leaders to enhance their skills and develop confidence in addressing EDI issues. Wanting to be a Union that creates opportunities for new students to become leaders and enhance the skills of the student body at large. So, developing an Employment Equity Plan is a major component of this section. This would be a reference document for any hiring we do and is a standard for many organizations. Historically, we have seen a lot of the Union’s leadership be white and it would be beneficial to at least have a reference document with a clear outline of how to approach that. The SU Executive participates in anti-’oppression training, hosted by representatives of marginalized communities. Their voice is the one that needs to be educating. Xiuming I see your hand up, do you want to jump in?”

Xiuming Shi, RC Councillor: “I just want to say thank you for all of the work that you and the committee have done on this document. One question I have is what the inclusive event certification would look like?”

 Téa Fazio: “I don’t know for sure because I don’t do event certification. That’s something that Adriana handles. I get this perspective from when I was in the Computer Science Association because we would try to get certification for being a sustainable event. My hopes are that we could do something similar for it to be an inclusive event. I’ll let Adriana speak on this as she knows this process better than I do.”

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: “Yeah, so, I don’t know 100% how this process works because all of our events this year were green since they were online. We didn’t really have a certification process this year because of that. I think the certification of an inclusive event is a really good idea and a great starting point. The criteria for that will have to come with a consultation.”

 Téa Fazio: “Yeah, and that’s something we’ll have to work on with the University of New Brunswick as they’re the ones who provide the certification. I know from my experience of working with clubs that it would be almost like an incentive to learn about sustainability in order to get the certification. I would hope that it would do the same for inclusivity.”

Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor: “If a student is feeling marginalized, in what way do the students get in contact with EDI? Will it be through representatives or will it be through some form or survey?”

 Téa Fazio: “For this one, it’s more like a list of items they’d have to follow and check off the boxes to give them approval for it being an inclusive process. In terms of having more open feedback for that process, I’m looking at having a section of our UNBSU website to engage in regular conversations. I think what happens with sustainability is that they have to follow certain items and quality their event and explain how they qualify.”

Abhiiraj Nikam: “Also, after the EDI representatives have received a request, will the committee directly sit on the request? Or will the committee sit weekly to collect all of the requests it has received the entire week or go through every single request and check if it’s inclusive or not?

 Téa Fazio: “This would be handled internally by UNB so we’d have to have that discussion with them. It’s not something I’d want to task our EDI committee with because I don’t want to put that burden of work on them. Also, the SU doesn’t have much of a say on the value of the certification. It means more if it comes from UNB. You raise a good point though in making sure the process is accessible and easy to follow.”

Sean MacKenzie: “This is going off of the point that Adriana made about the green events and how that works. I did a lot of work last year in this area. To the best of my knowledge, the way it works is that you submit an online application and there are certain criteria that you have to meet. There is a set minimum level of criteria that you must meet to be a certified event. Sometimes deliberations have to be made. There are so many factors to consider. I also want to note that although I realize it’s not the comparison you’re intending to make, we can’t really compare a sustainability initiative to an inclusivity one as that’s like comparing apples to oranges, but the sustainable certification is the closest thing we have to what we're trying to do.”

 Téa Fazio: “Yeah, I was trying to reflect that’s what the process would be similar to. I agree, it’s apples and oranges.”

Xiuming Shi: “The last point regarding long-term actions, could you specify including racism and discrimination? We don’t want to dance around the fact that it may not happen as it most likely will. Just identifying the microaggressions and being able to address them when they happen.”

 Téa Fazio: “Absolutely. Great point. Thank you.”

Adriana Lefort: “It may be a good idea to get the training going sooner rather than later and make that a short-term goal since they’re looking at updating it anyways.”

 Téa Fazio: “My rationale for making it a long-term goal was that anything where we have to work with the university, will take more than one or two years. I think you raise a good point about timing, though. I also wanted to raise a difference in this point in the document provided to you folks. Initially, it had specified either executives or, specifically, the VPFO. However, I think it should be looked at more broadly, so I moved it down to the long-term actions list, and I gave an example of that VPFO training. Also, our policy and job roles don’t explicitly address our EDI responsibilities, but we must incorporate those into them. I changed this because Adriana expressed that the VPFO undergo regular training, so I think it’s more of making sure it’s written down if it doesn’t get communicated during the transition. We want to ensure continuity.

The following section is strengthening foundations which is one of the heftier sections. One of the short-term goals includes adding best practices for respectful language use and accessibility to the Brand Book. This is important as it is something we’re already doing, but it should be on paper for turnover. We looked into having an external company do an EDI review of SU’s policies and governing documents. From consultation, many agree that this is important to do. However, it is pretty expensive. My impression is that this would have to be discussed with the incoming council as to whether the costs are worth an internal review of EDI. I think something we should consider is how much we want to review. For example, do we want certain things reviewed over a certain period? It’s also important to note that we already have a line in the budget for MCI and student-led initiatives, so I hope to allocate a specific line for passion projects that are EDI-focused. However, that would have to be explicit. We’d need to discuss whether we think it’s necessary and whether we want to make sure that students are aware that this fund is available.

Another significant change that I would love feedback from you folks on is changing the MCI role. I’ve had discussions with Melissa and Mehak and externally with outside groups of students. Our feeling was the MCI role did not have enough responsibility for a workload, which may have just been in the way we interpreted it. However, I did feel like there was an opportunity to task this role with EDI. We could also have a separate EDI coordinator because there is a substantive amount of work that needs to go into the position.”

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: “The MCI this year had a different year and when I look at the job description states that they’re supposed to organize initiatives throughout the year and other things that they weren’t able to incorporate this year because of the pandemic. In a regular year, I wouldn’t want to put all of that work on one student. I think a lot more could get done with EDI if you have two separate roles. Plus, you’d be giving more opportunities to students. You’d be offering more perspective if you separate the positions.”

Téa Fazio: “Yeah, and I think that aligns well with the plan and wanting to create more opportunities for student leadership.”

Nihla Hussain, International Students Councillor: “I agree with what Adriana said. EDI encompasses a bit more than just multicultural initiatives.”

Téa Fazio: “Great. I will make the appropriate changes. Long-term objectives for this section include incorporating inclusion requirements into events plans for funding and other Union approvals. This is something a lot of other universities have started doing and have added to their EDI plans. UNB needs to make informed decisions based on research of where students are struggling. They need to know the data, so they should look into this process. I think determining internally for our Union and looking at metrics for our organizational compliance to TRC Calls to Action and having it formally documented that this EDI plan and the Union’s performance should be reviewed annually. The EDI committee would make my interpretation of that. This point will likely be expanded on in the future. I was trying to make the distinction between this point and the certification because this would be a required section. So any event plans that get submitted should also consider EDI concerns and how the group has assessed that. I think it’s important to incentivize learning more and show that this is an expectation we’ve set for anything that’s going to happen on campus. Again though, that will need to be expanded on further.

The next section is orientation. Most of this section comes with what the Blackshirt team worked on this summer: the EDI plan for orientation. Most of the recommendation points that I have come from them. We need to make sure that orientation is a good experience for everyone. So, making sure that student leaders such as the Orientation Chair, Vice-Chair, and BlackShirts participate in anti-oppression training hosted by representatives of marginalized communities. We are adding an EDI workshop to RedShirt training, hosted by representatives of marginalized communities. Develop methods for receiving feedback. Reviewing our pillars to make sure EDI is reflected in our goals. We are developing a component of the Employment Equity Plan to address increasing representation from marginalized populations in orientation volunteers and staff and collaborate with diverse community partners/businesses to put together orientation kits (o-kits) and prizes.”

Xiuming Shi: “I was wondering what kind of marginalized communities you were hoping to have come in like, do they have to be professionals? Because Shades of Change is thinking of making courses on D2L. After we receive training on anti-racism and anti-discrimination, we’d be willing to offer that training to others. Depending on the qualifications you’re looking for, we can discuss this further.”

Téa Fazio: “That’s awesome. I think keeping the support for students there if we can is excellent. Looking ahead in this process as I have it here, these are directives that would also be for the incoming team - that was my intention with this document, but that’s me. My plan with this was to determine which aspects of training need to be addressed initially. Then we can invite people in to do that. I’ve also had conversations with Black Lives Matter Fredericton, who is also developing anti-racism training. It would be good to invite as many groups as we can in the given timeframe, and indeed, if you folks are putting the time in to create a module, it would be a waste not to utilize it. I appreciate you bringing that up. Are there any last questions before I finish up the plan?

The last little section is on revising the plan and continuity. The point of this plan is how we can be more sustainable in terms of our EDI plan, and it’s hard to do that when we’re changing members every year. We need it written down in our documents. The EDI Plan should be reviewed every 1-2 years to determine new short-term actions towards achieving the outlined goals. This plan should be revised every three years to maintain consistency with the Union’s internal structures and EDI priorities. An EDI progress presentation should occur annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the UNB Student Union to ensure transparency in assessing our progress in completing the short and long-term goals.

The last section I have is EDI campus groups and resources. This is the preliminary list I have so far, but if you folks find more groups, let me know, and I’ll add them. I have it highlighted because it’s shorter than the original list you received, as some groups are now inactive. It is essential to have this list so that we have people to reference, and we need to be aware of these groups to support them. That’s all from me. Any questions, concerns, or emotional outbursts? I know this has been a hefty meeting, but I appreciate you guys bearing with me and looking forward to completing the final draft. I hope that we can move forward with this in September.”

**5.7 Awards Presentation**

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “We had three people win awards on Friday who, unfortunately, could not attend. One of the two councillors of the year was someone I was very proud of and happy to work with, and I consider her a friend, congratulations Breana Andrews! I’ll pass it on to Deanna.”

Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: “I didn’t have the chance to work too closely with this individual; however, they had one of the most attended SU events of the year and we are incredibly proud of their hard word, congratulations Madeleine Smith!”

Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor: “Thanks so much. That means a lot!”

Deanna Merriam: “Our next award is the Contribution to Campus award. After going on a wild goose chase to find this person's contact information, we ran across their campaign from last year which aligns really well with the purpose of this award. I would be lying if I said it didn’t intimidate me a little bit. Coming into the councillor role with the promise of not letting their faculty go unnoticed any longer, they committed to representing not only their faculty but also their entire campus. Madeleine, you scared the hell out of us with your Head-on Campaign and it was exactly the wake-up call that we needed and you did it with kindness, grace and passion. We are so grateful for the work you’ve done to unite our campus and connect us with the Moncton nursing students. We are so proud to present this award to you!”

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: “The Unsung Hero Award is for an individual who is always ready to swoop in and save the day. We believe this individual is always ready to help but never receives the recognition they deserve. As many of us were new incoming executives, we didn’t know how the council was supposed to run, but this individual was always there to keep us in line. They were a great help during the elections. Aodhan, we would like to recognize you and all of your help for the Unsung Hero Award.”

1. **Reports to Council**

**6.1 Vice President – Communications**

* Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: “Over the past week we’ve worked on filming for the Breaking Stereotypes initiative. We also worked on setting up the film studio. I also just want to say thank you to everyone who helped work on Breaking Stereotypes. It’s going to be a process to get it done, so I’ll hustle on that.
* I was invited to and attended a half-day retreat to provide some perspective on what students are lacking for orientation week.
* Black Tie Cellar Night was a successful and well-attended event.
* Based on Friday night, we worked really hard on the SURAS and I helped with some of the logistics and planning. I was happy to see everyone there.
* I’ve had several meetings and calls with the Wellness Coordinator to arrange for some social media material for the Wellness Team.
* The biggest task on hand is hiring for VP Communications. We had several applications come in, and I met with Kordel and Bhavya, the incoming President and VPFO to talk about goals for the hiring committee. We came up with goals and interview questions and held all of the interviews with all of the candidates. Hopefully, we will soon hear all of the names of the incoming executive team!”

**6.2 Vice President – Student Life**

* Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: “We didn’t have too many orders for the Tastebreaker bundles over Easter break, so if you didn’t get one the first time around then please try to order one as they will be available until Tuesday next week. We need to show the vendor that a lot of people are going to go for this. The order form is available on the website and social media.
* The first food bags have been picked up and the orders will now be coordinated by Brennan Marks, incoming VPSL.
* In terms of the garden, we wanted to work with the Design Works camp to help get the garden set up, but I don’t think that’s going to happen as their camp starts in June or July and we need it up in May.
* Not much to update on ACE, but we’ve been working on the website design and programming. Unfortunately, we won’t be able to design it this year because we didn’t think now would be a good time to release it with such short notice. Brennan plans to continue working on it with the new DrinkSmart Coordinator over the summer and release it next year in the fall.
* SURAS went really well. We did a lot of planning for it. Thank you to everyone who came out! Those who couldn’t attend, I’m sure I’ll see you on campus soon. Thank you all for a great year on the council.”

**6.2 Vice President – Finance & Operations**

* Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: “I helped with the scheduling of the VP Communication interview.
* For SURAS, I was the main point of contact with the Delta so there was a lot of work done there in planning the event.
* I’ve been trying to catch up on emails as much as I can. I am continuing to do that.
* I’ve been helping Melissa out with De-stress Fest. It seems like we’ll have some awesome prizes, so I encourage you all to attend.
* I attended the Graduate Dean of Research meeting for the Faculty of Management on Friday and I’m happy to say that we’ve officially recommended a candidate for the position.”

**6.3 Vice President – Internal**

* Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “I packed all of the study packs, approximately 100 of them, which took quite a long time.
* The SURAS also took up a lot of my time.
* The textbook dropbox is a place where students can sustainably get rid of their textbooks as opposed to throwing them out. It’s all set up at the library.
* I attended SSNP.
* I met with STUSU and Sean.
* I attended the pre-senate meeting and the senate meeting.”

**6.4 Vice-President – Advocacy**

* Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: “I met with the Chairs of Shades of Change, Xiuming and Sohan to see how the SU can support them and promote their growth as an organization made up of UNB students.
* I met with Melissa and the wellness team to get the De-stress Fest work done.
* I’ve been working to finalize the EDI plan.
* I met with the tri-campus sexual violence prevention team to brainstorm and prioritize what the focus of next year’s campaign is going to be.
* I met with the Accessible Education Committee to talk about a policy we were finishing making for OER’s.
* Sean, Deanna and I met to finalize our game plan for the Get Out the Vote campaign for the municipal election.
* Deanna, Vishnu and I met to figure out filming for BAE. We decided to look at filming at the end of April and continue on in the summer so we could release something in the fall. It makes sense anyway as it’s important to highlight consent with new students coming into our campus community in the fall anyways.
* The executive team met to finalize the SURAS and it was so, so wonderful to see you folks in person.”

**6.5 President**

* Sean Mackenzie, President: “I attended the CASA AGM from March 29 - 31.
* I met with the NBSA ED and Chair to provide insight on the recommendations.
* I met with Grace and Sara to discuss the survey that was sent out. Please take time to fill this out if you can!
* I met with several media outlets to discuss information put it in regards to the fall return to school.
* I met with the organizers of the RED awards to help out and hosted part of the ceremony.
* I ordered and picked up some of the awards for the SURAS.
* I attended the VP Communications interview.
* I worked on my transition report a little bit.
* I attended and prepared for the BOG Properties and Finance Committee.
* I attended the Valedictorian Selections Committee Meeting.
* Finally, I had a transition meeting with Kordel.”

**6.6 Status of Executive Review Recommendations**

1. **Announcements**

 Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: “De-stress Fest is this coming week and we are going to be having some really fun activities in the quad. We need some extra volunteers for that so if any of you are free between 11:00 am - 4:30 pm then you can come to the quad and we’ll have music and bubbles. It will be a lot of fun! Tuesday we’ll be having physical activities and Wednesday we’ll be having a night at the CAP. Thursday we’ll have Disney-themed trivia at the Cellar with insanely cool prizes. Our number one prize for the trivia is a stay at Glamp Camp! If anyone can help out, please send me a message.”

 Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor: “It’s been an intense year and we all survived it so I’d like to voice my admiration to the executive team because you’ve made it through and put out incredibly good work that I know will take the UNBSU forward in a great way. It’s been great working with everyone. Cheers!!”

 Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor: “It’s been amazing working with everyone and getting to know all of you!”

 Sean MacKenzie, President: “I really appreciate all of your work and for consistently attending Council meetings, especially those of you who are working and studying remotely from around the world. I’m extremely grateful for you folks and I look forward to seeing the work that’s done next year.”

1. **Question Period**
2. **Other Business**
3. **Adjournment**

**Resolution 123-20**

***That*** *Council adjourns the meeting.*

Mover: Sean MacKenzie, President

Seconder: Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor

**The motion is carried.**

**The meeting is adjourned at 10:30 PM.**