

Executive Report

Prepared for: UNBSU Council 2022/2023

August 20, 2022



We recognize and respectfully acknowledge that the UNBSU experience takes place on the stolen, unsundered, and unceded traditional lands of Wolastoqiyik.

President – Kordell Walsh

Hey Council! I hope things have been going fantastic for you all over the past few weeks. It's hard to believe, but this is the second last bi-weekly report before the school year starts! This should be my shortest report, as I was at a conference for one week and on vacation the other!

CASA Policy and Strategy

At CASA's Policy and Strategy Conference, a lot was accomplished. First, our Board Action Plan was passed - and I am happy to share it with anybody who is interested in learning more. Some of the highlights of my role specifically will be: organizing, in collaboration with National Advocacy Committee, a national advocacy campaign! [Here's an example of one of CASA's recent non-election based advocacy campaigns.](#) Other highlights include supporting delegates in conducting effective year-round advocacy, planning training sessions for delegates ahead of Advocacy Week in November, and conducting a review of CASA's campaigns over the last 5 years to ensure consistency in measurements of success.

We also approved Committee Action Plans, and there was a consultation session hosted to get preliminary ideas for the national advocacy campaign. CASA also approved its priority themes for the year! When CASA approves priority themes, what this means is these are the primary topics CASA will focus its advocacy on throughout the year - specific asks to government will be based on CASA's existing policy library and approved by the Board after CASA's Home Office staff conducts an assessment to determine what asks may have the most likelihood of getting approved. The themes are as follows:

Financial Priorities: Student Financial Aid, Student Mental Health

Regulatory Priorities: International Student Immigration, Indigenous Learners, and Student Research

Research and Policy Priorities (Priorities that we wanted to focus on but don't have enough research or existing policies on to have *good asks*): Student Housing, Educational Materials and OERs

These were the highlights, among some fantastic educational sessions and great discussions with student leaders across the country. Two of my favourite sessions were Media Training, where we had a media expert present; as well as a “What is Government Relations” session where our Executive Director, Mackenzy presented.

Odds and Ends

- UNB released its plans for masking this fall. If you haven't seen it, it's great to keep updated. At this time, I don't have great concerns about the plan - however I'd love to hear any and all feedback about the plan you may have;
- Rose and I will be heading to the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce on Monday to sign an MOU with the Chamber. The MOU will have two key items of value: a guaranteed seat for the UNBSU on the Government Affairs Committee and the Policy Development Committee; and will provide **all** students represented by the UNBSU access to Chamber events at Chamber Member Rates. This is especially important for the Chamber's Business After Hours and Business Over Breakfast programs, which are professional networking events that come at no charge for chamber members. This will be a fantastic opportunity for students to network with hundreds of business leaders in the community, and will hopefully open the doors on opportunities for students.
- The UNBSU has been invited to write a government submission as part of the 2022 statutory review of the minimum wage. Under the Employment Standards Act, the Minister must conduct a review of the minimum wage every two years. If anybody is particularly interested in the minimum wage, please contact me! We have been asked to answer 4 questions regarding the minimum wage, the method of adjusting the rate, overtime hourly rates, and NB's wages in relation to those of other Atlantic provinces. I haven't been able to find examples of other government submissions the UNBSU has provided yet - so while this likely isn't the first, it would certainly be our first standalone government submission in a while, which is a really exciting development in our advocacy work!
- Rose and I had a meeting with David Emerson regarding advocacy week, the NBSA, CASA, and some priority issues this year - such as the review of the Copyright Act and the disagreements regarding academic fair dealings; and international student visas.
- I had an interview regarding housing accessibility for students - where I spoke about the dire situation that students will be facing as they return to campus and the importance of the affordable housing strategy in having a student focused lens.
- I had an interview regarding an article written through interviews with members of the business community who, to be as light in saying this as possible, had concerns about apathy among youth entering the workforce and the contribution of that apathy to the labour market shortage. For this interview, I spoke about the realities of the current day - a mental health crisis, a housing crisis, 40+ year high inflation rates, there's cuts to student programs, and that there's not *just* a labour shortage, there is a skills gap that students are critical in filling. I shared that it is great that students are in a position to negotiate wages, work-life balance, etc. and that this sentiment that youth are

apathetic can be traced back decades. Lastly, I shared an invitation to business leaders that if they're struggling to hire students, to feel free to reach out to the Student Union - and we're happy to help with promotions, and manage expectations.

That's it from me for now folks, but please don't hesitate to reach out with questions!

Vice President Student Wellness - Ridhi Sharma

Happy Pride Festival, folks! We are proud to stand in solidarity and celebrate Pride with our fellow peers in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. It's hard to believe we are back in school in two weeks. We are thrilled to see you in person and we wish you the best start to the year!

Programming Weeks

I met with the Sustainability Office to discuss the plan for the week, and as I mentioned earlier, I have 5-6 events planned and I have been working on their draft event plans. I am waiting for our Wellness Coordinator to be hired and transitioned into the role to discuss the plan further and seek their input on the plans. I spoke with Scott's Nursery about the logistics and donations for the Paint-a-Pot, Pot-a-Plant event. I created a guideline budget for the Fall Programming Weeks; the budget is contingent on the current events and will change accordingly after the Wellness Coordinator joins the team.

I met with Lucia Scalco and Jacyntha England from YMCA to discuss community events and webinar series. Lucia also shared the list of sessions that are part of the Youth Cannabis Awareness Program. There is a workshop on cannabis and its impact on the adolescent brain, one on the Canadian landscape of cannabis consumption by youth, and another is a trivia-styled session aimed to bust myths and misconceptions about cannabis. Jacyntha and I also brainstormed a couple of topics, for example, "Getting Started as a Young Entrepreneur in New Brunswick", "Digital Literacy and Branding" and "Making a Difference as a Climate Change Entrepreneur in New Brunswick". I also attended the Inventors and Innovators: Environment & Sustainability workshop to learn about ideas and common challenges faced by young eco-entrepreneurs. We also worked on a survey so that students can share their ideas and thoughts on topics for the webinars. This will be released in Mid-September. Kindly share it amongst your groups. I would love to learn about student interests and ideas for Finance Week.

Collaborations

Betina and I worked on different initiatives ideas for the year and the timeline. I also attended the 203 Board Meeting where we talked about the Pride Festival, logistics of Ice Cream Social for Orientation, and the 203 Coordinator position. I also sat on the Skills Plus Advisory Committee where we discussed some of the Skills Plus sub-programs, like, Sustainability, EDI, Indigenous Perspectives, Workplace, etc., and gave feedback on various pieces of training, such as cross-cultural competency, environmental racism, anti-racism, etc.

Housing Insecurity

Students have been reaching out to me with concerns about the lack of affordable housing in Fredericton and I directed them to resources. I researched how other universities are working to mitigate the housing crisis. In my search, I came across intergenerational housing and so, I looked into the iGenNB program. Amanda and I reached out to the iGenNB project team to learn where the program was left off and whether it will proceed into the second phase. Rose and I will also be bringing this forth in our next meeting with David Coon.

Odds and Ends

- I met with Matt and Becky from the SUB to briefly discuss event space ideas for the Beeswax and Paint-a-Pot workshops.
- I reached out to ISAO and MWC to share and promote the Student Union Multicultural Initiatives Coordinator posting amongst the students.
- I attended the Allyship training by Nadine Violette and ISAO.
- Amanda, Rose, and I participated in ISAO Orientation to Services session and briefly introduced our services and answered questions.
- I did an environment scan of initiatives that other Student Unions have planned for the year, especially those relating to equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- I attended the “Creating Inclusive Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Support with International Students” by Possibility Seeds
- I exchanged emails with Sofia Melitz from the 203 Centre regarding the Pride Parade and how we can be an ally.
- I worked through the modules of the Skills Plus program.
- Isabella and I met with Hillary to talk about a hiring workshop tailored to the needs of international students. This will be in collaboration with the CDEC.
- I met with Lydia to talk about the timeline for the Reclaim Campus Spaces initiative, and the resource webpage for students. I reached out to different offices to request free training resources. I also started working on finding off-campus free training resources for students.

We will be walking with and supporting the 203 Centre on Sunday at the Fredericton Pride Parade! Please reach out to me by Saturday, if you are interested.

Thank you so much for reading my update! Hope you have an amazing start to the term! If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas, I would love to hear from you at wellness@unbsu.ca

I look forward to seeing you all in person!

Vice President Academic – Jillian Carson

How is this our second last summer update to council? It is hard to believe we are this close to September. We are getting excited to soon be spending our Sunday evenings with you folks, beginning on **September 18th!**

Bits and Pieces

- I have been participating in weekly commencement planning meetings between UNBF and UNBSJ
- This past week Lydia and I also attended the final meeting of SEMOAC, it was exciting to see what some of the faculties have planned for orientation
- I also had a representative of the REDS contact me to discuss us participating in an arrival information session hosted for student athletes. This would be to share information about what we do
- I had a meeting with a representative from Evergreen, this is a group based out of Toronto and they have an exciting opportunity to offer students in Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton. This will be going in our newsletter next month
- Isabella and I completed the hiring for the Academic Programming Coordinator. We decided to hire Grace Wood after our interviews and I am looking forward to beginning my work with her
- Lydia and I have continued our work on the WOW cards, last week we attended the Presidents Social to share our cards with the faculty and staff members in attendance
- I also met with Cape Breton University to discuss their Zero Textbook Cost program. This went well and their Vice President gave me a lot of interesting information and was very supportive of us taking on this project in the future

Libraries

I had a meeting with Mattia Fonzo from the Research Commons at the HIL, we discussed collaborating for study halls this year which we would participate in as a service with other student services across campus! She will be sending more information my way soon as the team at the HIL gets the details for the program ironed out.

Senate

I met with Sarah DeVarenne last week and her team, we discussed the Part Time Student Senator position and I am looking forward to working on this, this year alongside Kordell.

I have also been attending weekly SS&P meetings as a member of the committee.

To my Student Senators: please also keep your eyes on your emails as I will be reaching out to you again soon!

Council

I have continued to work on council transition plans, especially in how I'd like the honorarium form to look. I met with one of our councillors last week, we had a wonderful chat about councillor duties.

The CRO, Secretary, and Chair positions are all open for applications! We decided to extend the chair position hiring in hopes that we will get a larger applicant pool!

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or needs please feel free to reach out to me at academic@unbsu.ca, have a wonderful day!

Vice-President Finance & Operations - Isabella Hallihan

Orientation

I attended two more orientation meetings over the past two weeks. We just discussed all of the events planned for orientation week. We received some things for the O-Kits and went over that. The final budget for orientation was finalized last week by myself and the orientation team. Over this week I have had check-ins with Jhanvi regarding the budget to make sure we are on track and updating the budget as they spend.

Hiring

I spent the majority of the past two weeks hiring. I think almost every day I was doing interviews. Last week we did interviews all week for SET members; we had twenty applicants and interviewed ten. It took up a lot of time and we went into the weekend with interviews so we could get the team hired. By Monday we had selected a team of seven really strong applicants. I then sat in on the Jr SLIC Coordinator interviews on Monday/Tuesday. I then did some final interviews for the week for the Academic Programming Coordinator. I will be doing more interviews next week for some more positions that are coming up.

TownHouse

I had a meeting with our TownHouse Coordinator Abby this week. It was a quick meeting but we just discussed what our plan with TownHouse is moving forward. Today was the final day for people to apply to TownHouse positions so on Monday we are going to do some hiring and make sure we include them in TownHouse orientation so the team gets familiar with each other. We received seven applications which is great because there were seven positions.

When it comes to actually start planning TownHouse events, Abby and I decided it was best to start that discussion after orientation so we do not get overwhelmed/ahead of ourselves with events.

Meetings

Ridhi and myself set up a meeting with ISAO in regards to a workshop we want to create for Finance Week. ISAO gave us really good advice and feedback and helped us figure out our next steps in order to get the workshop to happen.

Footprints

I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to navigate Footprints, UNB's event approval platform. I was having a hard time understanding what I should be approving so we held a short meeting with Steven and Miriam. They explained a lot and helped me get a better understanding of the software.

I approved my first event last week, which was good progress for me. I have been getting quite a few more event requests over the course of this week but they are the type of events that have to go through SERC, so I made sure to send the report out to the SERC team so we can discuss that at our next meeting, which is next week.

Funding

There seems to be a lot of funding requests coming in at this time. I am more comfortable now with reviewing and approving them. I usually consult with others or Karen if I am unsure on what to approve, but I feel I am getting the hang of it better. I have spent time going over the budget for clubs and societies to make sure I am on the right track.

Vice-President Events and Services - Amanda Smith

Hi, council members!

Can you believe summer is almost over? Looking forward to seeing you folks on campus and the rest of the UNBF community!

Food

We hired our Food Coordinator, Lucy Armstrong! I am so excited to have her apart of our team this year. She has an extensive background with food insecurity. I updated and created a separate drive for the Food Coordinator to make things smoother between her and I. Lucy came in and we onboarded her for an hour. Signed the code of conduct, etc.

The case for support for a food bank on campus has been given to Kordell and the Alumni Office to review so that things make sense before we start looking for funding.

Fresh Food Bag program The Fresh Bags were picked up. I highly recommend you sign up for the next bag or encourage your friends. Orders open again August 31st: <https://unbsu.typeform.com/to/JDCUIF> for \$17, or you can pay cash at the Welcome Centre for \$15! I highly recommend you purchase one or encourage your friends. It is 30\$ worth of produce.

SafeRide

We hired our SafeRide Coordinator, Jigme and he starts August 31st. I scheduled training for him, Karen and I on how to use the accessibility ramp in the van. I updated the SafeRide Driver typeform, we are hiring Saferide drivers now. I created another SafeRide drive for Jigme to make things smooth.

Health & Dental Benefits

April and I have communicated about the contract for a new service we are launching.

Bike Co-op

I had gone to the LB Gym with uRec to find the best water supply for our Bike Co-op launch and fundraiser for Shinerama, but it was cancelled due to the rain. I had taken photos of the bike and the llama promotional material for the event. I submitted a green event application for the event. Stickered all the helmets for the bikes.

Agenda

Heather informed me that the coil for the agenda was on back order but still expected to arrive August 22nd. If you're interested in a free agenda, please sign up here" <https://unbsu.typeform.com/to/S2DJlyQH>

Events

Molly's timesheet was submitted for payroll. I met with Becky and Matt about the event application and how we want the stage up for the kick-off concert. Molly and I submitted contracts to two talents for the kick-off concert. We are excited to announce they've accepted the offers. I met with Pat from the cellar about applying for liquor license so kick-off can be a wet/dry event. Molly and I met multiple times over the last couple of weeks to discuss kick-off and planning. Molly and I have been working with Kathleen, a talent agent and submitted a few offers to different artists and had some declines due to timing. I connected with Hannah Classen about the rules and regulations around masks for the Kick-Off concert and I am happy to announce as this is not an event students are required to attend, masks will not be required at the Kick-Off Concert.

SLIC

Sean (Sr. SLIC Coordinator), Isabella, and I interviewed for the Jr. SLIC Coordinator and have made a decision on who we are hiring.

Odds & Ends

- I completed week one of a professional development training and began week two on emotional intelligence in the workplace.
- I met with the student engagement coordinator to plan the upcoming volunteer fair in September
- I responded to emails.
- Researched different sustainable businesses in Fredericton for Ridhi's sustainability week.
- I sat on a call and spoke to ISAO about UNBSU services with Ridhi and Rose.

Vice-President Research and Policy - Rose Grant

I hope everyone is doing well. It is hard to believe we are already in the middle of August. I am excited to see you all soon! I was at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Policy and Strategy Conference in Calgary all week last week so it took up most of my time.

Meetings

I took part in a meeting with David Emerson, the Special Advisor to the President regarding my policies to the government that I have completed so far. I took part in a presentation for UNBSU services for the ISAO Wednesday August 17th alongside others in the UNBSU.

I took part in a meeting with Trevor and Tera from CASA regarding what is next for committee members in the Federal Policy Committee on August 17th and for general documents we are sending committee members to help them review policies.

I took part in a meeting with Cathy White regarding the Fredericton Community Suicide Prevention Committee.

Committees

I took part in a few sessions with the Federal Policy Committee for CASA. As Vice Chair I created a couple of doodle polls and sent out zoom invites for team meetings we have. I organized policies for those in the committee alongside the Chair. As Vice Chair I have agreed to take on an extra couple of policies to review this year.

I have taken on research for a climate policy that CASA is taking on this year in collaboration with Kordell and Trevor Potts. I am doing research this week and have set up a meeting with everyone to go over research we have conducted.

Advocacy Week

I researched materials that we need for UNBSU's advocacy week and budgeted them according to a document. I updated some attendee lists and created a questionnaire for potential volunteers for advocacy week. I created a preliminary training schedule for volunteers who will be meeting with stakeholders in the community.

CASA

I took part in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee consultation with board members and came up with some training that the committee can present to membership. I also created a slack channel for everyone in the EDI committee. I took part in a plenary and consultation regarding board action plans for the year throughout my week at the conference. I sent over some emails to the Federal Policy Committee including dates which members need to submit information.

Odds and Ends

- I set up my office hours for this year with Kordell to work with my class schedule. I am excited to see you all this year and work in collaboration! I helped set up the office for the incoming Vice President Communications Annie Sheehan, with Lydia.
- I took part in Media Training for CASA which was very valuable to me.
- I worked on my policy forum planning this week and created some documents to keep organized and invitee lists. I worked on this and completed much of the preliminary budget, templates, question ideas, etc.
- I worked on words of welcome letters for commencement 2022.
- I am taking part in the Pride Festival alongside the 203 this Sunday.
- I worked on template work for the project that Jill and I are working on to help many first-generation students at UNB with how to craft emails to professors.
- I worked on preliminary research for affordable housing to create a policy which will help students. I edited the mental health policy I have been working on a bit this week.

Vice-President Communications - Lydia Chong

Website

I finally finished updating the Campus Resources Directory and am now in the process of updating our COVID-19 resource page into general Community Resources and Support.

Ridhi and I have also discussed adding a section on the website for free certificates/training available for students to access and complete in their own free time.

TownHouse

I made two posts for Abby and she's made a GoogleForm for TownHouse executive team applications.

Hiring

We have hired our new VP Communications, Annie Sheehan, who will be taking over for me starting on the 29th. As of this past Wednesday, I've been onboarding Annie and giving her a full transition and will be doing so until the 26th (my last day). It's been great so far and Annie is picking things up quickly!

Molly, Isabella, and I also completed 10 SET interviews last week and finally picked our final 7 (it was TOUGH to pick, everyone was so good). We are excited to get things rolling with them and I've briefed Annie about what her role will be as one of the direct supervisors of SET!

We are also going to put out hiring for a Graphic Designer and Videographer starting Monday.

Orientation

We've had a great response for WOW (Words of Welcome) cards so far. If you, council, would like to help us out and send a warm welcome to our incoming students, we are still taking submissions [here](#). I also attended the President's Social with Jill to collect WOW card messages from UNB staff and faculty members.

I've also been gearing up for Orientation and Annie and I are preparing some social media plans for the days leading up and during!

CIRA Campaign

Updated the website banner and home page to direct folks to test their internet speed and quality with CIRA. This will be a month-long campaign until the 21st of September.

Other:

- Updated and put out this month's newsletter
- Updated the hiring page
- Attended SEM-OAC
- Made graphics and promoted the Ride & Shine BBQ (rip bbq bc rain)
- Had a discussion with Ridhi regarding a timeline for the Reclaim Spaces Campaign in the fall
- Working on a transition report for Annie

Orientation Chair & Vice-Chair - Jhanvi Joshi and Kanwar Pal Singh

Overview

Happy Friday!! I hope everyone is doing well, this week was pretty eventful in terms of receiving orders and finalizing details of Orientation Week. At the same time, the training schedules for the Orientation Leaders were made and finalized as well. These were some other updates from the Orientation team:

Marketing

BlackShirt Orientation Leaders were required to make 45-second videos for marketing of O-Week and also increase engagement on the Orientation pages. Jhanvi met with Lydia regarding marketing and BlackShirt Training.

Meetings

Various meetings were held with Matt Maclean about the event Grow with Games, we have made a rough outlook on the event and the plans for the event have also been started. We also had meetings with Glow from Halifax about a light show during the Blast-Off event or a substitute for the fireworks during the event. We met with Professor Scott and Devina (the ARTS 1000 Intern) about having board games from different cultures and countries. We met with Sodexo to finalize the details on the food for events and training schedules. At the same time, Irving also decided to meet with the Orientation team to talk about collaborations for O-Week!

We met with BlackShirts Hirbod and Emily to discuss the Scavenger Hunt Event; discussing points systems, hints, layouts, and team structures within residences. Other meetings to highlight over the last 2 weeks:

- The Sex Trivia team consisting of people from UNBSU, Student Services, Residence Life, UNBSJ, CSASAs, and SVNB met up to discuss ideas, prizes and check-ins on the event planning and execution.
- We also had a meeting with Miriam and Sara about the COVID Regulations during Orientation Week and expectations for our Orientation Leaders as well during events and pieces of training.
- For Shinerama, meetings were held with the Regional Director and Campaign Advisor to discuss some details of Shine Day and discussions about if Cystic Fibrosis Canada would be able to send in a speaker to address fundraising volunteers.

Merchandise

In regard to Merchandise, we received our first orders of the Books+Pens, Pennants, TH T-shirts, and utensils. At the same time, we received proofs of the RedShirts Merchandise, BlackShirts Merchandise and the Shine Shirts. After the proofs are

accepted by the sponsors, they will be printed and shipped. The main goal is to have all the O-Kit merchandise in by the 25th, making it easier for our RedShirts to stuff the O-Kits. We also received coupons from the Campus Bookstore to give away and put in the O-Kits.

Schedule

The schedules to the events have been shared on the Sharepoint including their event descriptions and what to expect when incoming students attend the events, to help them envision what the events will look like and provide them as much clarity as possible for each event!

Sponsorships

Over the previous 2 weeks we have added another sponsor to our list, Irving has decided to sponsor us and has provided \$2,000 for representation at the Clubs and Societies Fair. The materials and tickets Harvest provided us to their festival have arrived as well!

RedShirt Orientation Leaders

The RedShirts have been reached out to by BlackShirts and split up into pods and posts about Shinerama's Summer Events have also been shared on the groups to market and increase engagement!

Blackshirt Orientation Leaders

Regular meetings have been held and updates have been given by each Executive on the events they are primaries on. Training schedules have been provided to the BlackShirts and BlackShirts have been keeping contact with RedShirts if any questions or concerns arise.

Shinerama

The donations links have been shared on our Instagram posts and put in the link to the Orientation page's bio. The Movie Night went great, but we did plan to have a fundraiser during the Bike Co-Op launch in conjunction with the VP Events and Services, however, due to weather conditions the event had to be canceled. However, within the next week, Shine Shirts will be given out to Residence Community, Student Services, etc. since a lot of previous Shine Shirts have been kept and are unusable due to Sponsor Logos. Also, a lot of the sites for Shine Day have been confirmed and included in the event plan.