

AGENDA – UNBSU Council Meeting



UNB Student Union 2021/22

October 17, 2021, via Zoom and in-person

Regrets: Spencer MacDonald, Maya Kors,

Absent: Abbie Delaney, Camryn Smith, Kianna Bear-Heatherington, Jharana Luitel,

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, calls the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

1.1 Roll Call

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, performs the roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 025-21

That Council approves the agenda.

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Mover: Kordell Walsh

Seconder: Deanna Merriam

The agenda is approved.

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, makes the remarks by stating, "I don't have anything to say but let's have a great meeting everyone."

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, states, " We have two previous minutes to do today. We should call it in separately. First, we have a motion to approve one from September 26th, and I don't have anything to say but let's have a great meeting everyone."

UNBSU President, Kordell Walsh, states, " Previous minutes weren't sent out. We will have to motion to table it for the next meeting. Ridhi and I had discussed it. We hadn't shared with Ridhi the schedule because Ridhi is not in the Facebook group. So, there was a miscommunication on when they have to be in."

Resolution 026-21

That *Council* motion to approve previous minutes from September 26th, 2021.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from September 26th, 2021.

Mover: Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald

Secunder: Seth Eichhorst

Vote passes.

That *Council* motion to approve previous minutes from October 3rd, 2021.

Motion to Approve the Minutes from October 3rd, 2021.

Mover: Seth Eichhorst

Secunder: Deanna Merriam

Vote passes with one abstention.

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, “ Do you want to speak for your abstention?”

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, states, “ As far as I recall, I don’t remember being present for the meeting, so I don’t feel comfortable approving the minutes for he meeting I wasn’t present for.”

5. Substantiative Business

5.1 Appointment of Chief Returning Officer (Will Seely)

UNBSU President, Kordell Walsh, states, “ I can present from the Selections Committee’s perspective. We had the position of Chief Returning Officer open for three weeks and we received one application and it was Will Seely. I passed his information forward to Selections Committee and we unanimously decided to accept Will; he seemed to have great experience and well suited to take up this position, especially given it was walking right into an election. And, so far in seeing anything Will has done related to this position, he has done an excellent job. So, Selections Committee unanimously agreed with his appointment, and I can pass the floor to Will if he would like to add anything.”

Chief Returning Officer, Will Seely, says, “ Just very happy to be here and to be a part of this process. Elections are ongoing right now, and we have quite a few vacant positions or uncontested positions, so anybody knows anybody that is interested in

getting involved, nominations are open till 4 PM tomorrow. So, they can send the nomination package to cro@unbsu.ca.”

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, “Does anyone have any questions before we go to vote?”

Resolution 027-21

That *Council* motion to appoint Will Seely as Chief Returning Officer.

Motion to Approve Appointment of Chief Returning Officer

Mover: Houda El Hajjaoui

Seconder: Brennan Marks

The vote passes with four abstentions.

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, “ Do you want to speak for your abstention?”

President, Kordell Walsh,, states, “ I can speak on the behalf of the entire group and if anyone wants anything to add. We are abstaining procedurally because we were all part of the Selections Committee., i.e., the committee who proposed the appointment, so it was just conflict of interest.”

5.2 Resignation of Student Senators (Jharana Luitel and Camryn Smith)

Vice President Internal, Deanna Merriam, voices, “ So both are not present tonight, I am assuming, because they have both resigned. So, Jharana has resigned on the grounds of losing student status next semester because of graduation. And as a result, instead of being a vacancy next semester, she wanted to send this resign now

so we can appoint someone else during the by-elections. Camryn Smith. I ended up contacting Camryn after I was having some concerns about attendance matters to see if there was anything going on, and there is a lot happening in Camryn's life currently, and she believes in the best interest of the Union and herself to step down from her position. So, it is now also open in the by-election which I believe we have several nominations for, so at this point, we are pretty on track to have two new student senators coming in. I can answer questions if anyone has any."

5.3 Faculty Council Reports

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, doesn't have anything to report to the council.

Science Councillor, Khanh Nguyen, states, "nothing to report because I already contact with the UNB Chemistry Society, but they are currently busy hosting their Chem Week. So, we will continue to stay in touch maybe after the Chem Week."

Management Councillor, Meghan Budd, doesn't have any updates for the council at the moment.

Nursing Councillor, Ariel Lee, updates, " I just talked to Deanna about this. And, for my project, I am planning to host a session; its like a Q&A session and walk through applications for prospective students. Because currently we are having a shortage of nurses. So, I would like to have a brief introduction session for high-school students or any transfer students. So, I may have to contact Faculty of Nursing or dean to talk about this. "

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, says, " nothing to update. I met with Deanna last week to talk about my possible projects that I want to work on. I want to create a PAL Center for the Engineering Faculty and making Head Hall more accessible to people to get at."

5.4 COVID Rapid Tests

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, says, " So, this is less relevant now that the New Brunswick Government decided to provide Rapid Tests to anybody for free. But it would be nice if we could maybe get some on campus for people. Like, I know some people who don't have cars and maybe can't get to the testing centers."

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, " I suppose on the topic of Rapid Tests, I met with Kathy Wilson this week to gain an insight to why we haven't been offering Rapid Tests to fully vaccinated students. The response that I received was that there is a supply issue, and they couldn't just procure enough to reasonably offer them. Another part of it is that the test in general isn't really reliable enough to be a one and done. You are supposed to regularly do the tests. So, that means they would have to hand out boxes of tests and things like that, that just made it hard for them to use the supply that they might have and to offer it but with the recent announcement from GNB (Government of New Brunswick) that will change, and it will be a lot more accessible for students."

Interim Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, “ Brennan maybe able to say, but I am pretty sure that SafeRide will be able to go all the way there. Is that in their boundaries?”

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, replies, “I think it runs until 5 and SafeRide starts at 5:30 PM. It’s something we can look into I know rapid testing is something I have been hoping for as well for students, and hopefully things change with that and with that announcement Kathy’s directions might change as well.

Vice President, Internal, says, “ I am on the same note as Kordell was saying. We have been trying for a while to figure out what that process would look like for students because a lot of us are away from home and where we are comfortable so having that on campus would be an excellent thing for students. So, to get a better understanding Kordell and I both went and did a tour of the testing center on campus, and if I can say it, there are some very understaffed; I think three people worked there from 9-5ish and they are also doing all of the grocery runs themselves for the students in isolation. So, I think they are very overworked, but even the people who are working there are fully in favour of trying to find a way. Her name is Nicki MacPherson that works there, and she had expressed support for having Rapid Tests available. It is a larger issue of figuring out if we can have them on campus, and if they are on campus, can we fast track that process. I think it is something we will definitely look into further.”

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds, “ I will look into SafeRide stuff and work on it for next time.”

5.5 Adjusting Council Roles

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, says, “ I brought up this topic with Deanna a few days ago during our early semester meeting that is part of Councillor’s role. I mentioned that I felt some of the roles that are within Student Union as it stands are very loosely defined and possibly in such a way that might not be beneficial. In with Policy Committee, being tasked, in time coming up, with overlooking all of our Bylaws and examining the roles. I was hoping we could task Policy Committee with examining a few roles in particular, first of all, being my role which many know is named the 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative which I believe should very least be renamed to Gender and Sexual Diversity Representative as well as possibly be a little more explicitly tasked with working with groups such as the 203 and community on campus. I also believe that we should look into the two Inclusion Representative roles and see if they can be specified a little further. I know there is no roles within the Student Union, as it stands right now, for those who have economic disadvantages, such as those coming from positions of poverty, as well as I don’t think there is a role explicitly for racial diversity, for people who might face racism on campus. We have the International Student Rep but racial diversity and issues of racism on campus aren’t included in their role. So, I was hoping we could task Policy Committee with examining these three roles and seeing if there are beneficial changes that can be made as kind of beginning of this process.”

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds, “ I just wanted to let everyone know. We had conversations about these specific roles last year quite a bit, and we tasked Internal Affairs Committee with the reviewing of these positions, and I think we were on agreement last year that the Inclusion Councillor role needs to be redefined and Fareeha Quayyum who was one of the Inclusion Councillors last year was working on transitioning one of the two to BIPOC Student Representative, so we should really look into the work she started and see where it left off, and I am sure if we reached out, she would definitely be an asset. For the sake of work done last year, the renaming of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Representative was done last year and the reason that was done because of consistency’s sake with UNB’s Policy. So, UNB had recently made a change to change all of their policies to be reflective of that name because its up to date with the current most inclusive terms and it was done in consultation with the 2SLGBTQ+Welness Coordinator on Tri-campus. I am not saying we shouldn’t rename it; I just think that we should recognize that a lot of that work was looked into last year, and there was a lot of consultation done around that renaming.’

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, asks, “ So Gaia, did you want to bring up a motion for committee to do research on it?”

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, says, “ Yes, I want to motion for the Policy Committee to so research into these three roles, and continue the work that had been done last year. So, to begin the research where it was left off last year.”

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, questions, “ Point of Clarification. Does that need to go through Internal Affairs, given the Councillor roles?”

Vice President Internal, Deanna Merriam, replies, “It can go through Policy because it would impact job descriptions.”

Resolution 028-21

That *Council* task Policy Committee to research the naming structure of Councillor roles.

Motion for Policy Committee to Research Roles

Mover: Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy

Seconder: Deanna Merriam

The vote passes.

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President- Communications

VP Communications, Niko Coady, says, “ It’s been a busy couple of weeks, so just did some projects, I did the promotions for the Student Coffee Night, and we started the promotions for the nomination period for the by-election. A lot of my time in the last few days, has been spent replying to DM, messages and questions about the elections which is awesome that people are asking. I also hired my Graphic Designer,

so I met with her this week for the first time. And she is lovely, and I am very excited to work with her and it will help everyone just kind of take a little bit more off my plate. We just started interviews for the Student Experience Team, and we have more in the upcoming week. Brennan and I received the samples for the 1785 Collective, the clothing sample that we ordered, so we are going to look more into them. There was one that we liked and one that wouldn't work, so we still have to go through some more depending on what clothes we would like to order. We have also been discussing the volunteer form on the website. It's a bit messy right now; it's not the best to figure out where we would like our volunteers to go and what they would really like to do with their time. So ,Brennan and I are working on whether that form will be changed, or we have been working with the website Connect Fredericton to see if we can set up our volunteers through there so I am doing some research on what will work best for us. The blood drive is happening this week and all the appointments are already booked, which is so exciting. I am also working with Mark and Kyle, who is the social media student with the library this year. So, we are going to do a social media project with them to talk about what the libraries can offer, especially the new 3rd floor updated Research Commons; there are a lot of things that students can use so we are going to try and highlight those."

6.2 VP – Student Life

VP Student Life, Brennan Mark, states, "Hi everyone! So, yeah, it's been a busy couple weeks as well. Sustainability week went pretty well. Learned a lot about

events and the new normal I guess. Kind of realized how many folks don't know campus like they used to and that was insightful and will help planning my future weeks. Breakfast program also started the first week of October. The first week was a little rough but the second week went a lot better; we had 45 folks and Sodexo had come in with free coffee which I think attracted a lot more people and Niko had a much more aggressive promotional plan so that also helped quite a bit. So, Breakfast Program runs every Monday, starts at 8 till 10. It's a joint effort between UNBSU Food and UNBSU wellness. So, the if you are on campus that early then check it out, and what better than food for the day and free coffee. We applied for and received a grant from Rising Youth for the Bike Coop. So, the grant will cover part of the shed that we need to purchase and the bike repairs as we had bikes donated from UNB Sustainability, and any remaining funds will be spent on poor bikes or safety supplies, regardless, it will be spent because it is an expensive startup. It will be ready to go maybe before the snow comes, if doesn't come super early. But, if not it will be completely ready before the snow melts. Campus events: I am going to read the update from Molly as she does a lot of work with this directly. Her focus has been on UNBSU Student Nights, as Niko mentioned. We had a pregame in the cellar. The Reds hosted some in collaboration with us at each intermission which went really well, and we are hoping to do it again for our Women's Hockey game and looking at other sports as well just to spread the love to all our sports teams. Molly is working on some smaller events for October to celebrate Halloween and spread out some events for the busier times throughout

the semester, and we are also planning on bringing SET member to our normal team events, and interviews are on the way with Katelynn, Niko is on that committee as well, with Molly. I was supposed to be in Saint John this weekend for Alumni Council, but it got moved and it's a council that I sit on to keep us connected with the Alumni Council. Katelynn and I are working on Finance Week, which I decided to move till after Reading Week, to give us a little time to make sure its all done."

6.3 Vice President - Finance and Operations

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, "The week of the 4th, I had two meeting with two different clubs that got ratified on their first council meetings, so just going through the rules and regulations that is shared in Clubs and Societies Information Session I already had. Niko and I did graphic designer interviews and then we picked our candidate, Meredith, and she is great. I got the list of people wanting to be interviewed for SET from Molly, and then send them those interview times, we had some last week and we will have some more this week. We have it figured out. The first Clubs and Societies fair was held on the 15th, and now we had 6 clubs show up, and hopefully, the next few months will go as well. Helping Molly arrange a time and space for the activity she wants to have in the next couple of weeks kind of like liaising with the SUB, as the SUB also has rules and want to make sure that everything is good for that. Created a time and meeting space for the Clubs and Societies Finance Committee to start being able to review funding requests."

6.4 Vice President - Internal

VP Internal, Deanna Merriam, says, "I think I mentioned before, but the majority of my time over the last few weeks has been trying to wrap up everything that's been going on. So, that I can hand it off to the next person. But I did meet with Nominating Committee, and this was to discuss appointment of students to Senate Committee. I am going to be honest, most of the discussion was about the delivery format of future senate meetings, it's kind of a contentious point with the senate right now, is how we are going to be meeting with this COVID hybrid delivery. I took everything out of my office so its now completely empty. I have been going through upcoming SS&P package and this meeting is going to be three hours, instead of two hours, because typically we have about 5-6 cases per meeting but this one, we had 10 cases. It's been a hefty package to get through and Kordell will probably say this as well. I have contacted some other people at the University. I contacted the Dean of Libraries, Lesley Balcom, and Registrar, Shawna Bergin, to discuss my resignation with the needs of the projects I started with them, for example, I was working on some OERS with the Dean of Libraries, and with the Registrar on the Grade Relief Policy, and they both agreed with enthusiasm to continue the networks, and I also have some file folders with updates for the incoming VP Internal. I talked with interested candidates about Student Union who are running. As far as my knowledge is there is one candidate for my role, and they have been super enthusiastic about occupying the role, so I have been having conversations with them. I contacted Julie Redstone-Lewis to discuss my resignation from senate and

how that works in terms of someone coming into the role. My seat at Senate is tied into my role so it worked out quite well that when I leave that seat becomes taken. I also arranged with Julie to remove myself, Camryn and Jharana from Senate and Senate Committees, and I included that with a note to Nominating Committee to not fill those roles until after the By-election. So, the Senate Committees that each senator sits on is going to remain vacant to give the incoming senators an opportunity to pick up. And, in meantime, I have been writing a transition report. So, when I came into the role Grace Pelkey had given me what was Grace Mangusso's report, so I have to go back and have been going back to summarizing Grace Pelkey's year and my year at the same time. So, I just wanted to be at the most up to date document that can be of everyone. I met with all our councillors to discuss their thoughts and opinions about Council this year and where they want to go with their committees or projects this year."

6.5 6.5 President

President, Kordell Walsh, states, "It's been a busy couple of weeks. I met with representatives of Fredericton's New Inclusion Office, and there is a committee going to be coming over in the next short bit. I think its going to stem out form Fredericton's Anti-Racism Committee and their report, and they wanted to meet to talk about building connections with the Student Union and the students. I met with NBSA Sustainability Committee, and we were going through policies and trying to work on

them and get a Recycling Policy approved, and we had SS&P, and I have been preparing for this coming week's case which, as Deanna mentioned, took longer. Bunch of other committees, Health Emergencies has been the big one, COVID updates, etc. I also met with Kathy Wilson, as I mentioned earlier, and we discussed all things COVID and what the past few sets of regulations mean for the students, the University, where they are planning, etc. I was filling in as the CRO prior to Will being selected, so I was doing a bit of prep for that, went around campus and put posters, made posts in residences' pages to get the word out. I met with the city to discuss the UPass, the negotiations that had happened last year, the Student Union's perspective how the negotiations went, why did it fell off, we can enter into negotiations again. It was a very insightful discussion. They were left with a very different impression then we were, so it was great to chat with them to see the difference and where we left off and trying to get on the same page. And, we have agreed that student consultation is super important so one of the initial ideas was to bring out a survey to get student feel, but also trying to do campaign around promoting and understanding what that would mean for students. And it is something that Niko, I, and Brennan will work on. It might also be something that we will work on at Advancement Committee. Federal Policy Committee with CASA has been going on, and just working on policies for them. I did some filming with the recruitment office because they are doing virtual e-books for incoming students, so they just needed some clips. I had Board of Governors this past week which took up a lot of time. The Board packages are quite long and then it took from 9 until 1 so it was a long event. I met with Tim Thornton from Sodexo regarding food services on campus. We had a good discussion about what the options are, and we have received a lot of feedback about

accessibility of food services on campus. One of the big takeaways was Tim Hortons. Its super expensive to run and there is a 5 week turnaround on opening it. So, if they decided to open it today then they wouldn't be able to open it from 5 weeks from today, which is a big thing, and it makes it hard to predict COVID. And another big part of this is they don't want to continue offering more and then they would have to take it back when COVID restrictions change. They have done a lot of research and Tim and I had a great conversation. So, we are working on where we can go with that and helping increase food services on campus. I had NBSA this past Friday. I have been working on Intro-handbooks for Policy Committee and Advancement Committee so those will be going out early this week. We'll set up a time to chat about the Committees, and for Policy Committee, this recommendation that happened and where we can go with that."

7. Question Period

Board of Governor, Vishnu Vardhan, inquires, " I have a question for Brennan. Do you think for the Bike Coop, if its not ready by the time you are done with your role, do you think the next person will start it in summer or is it only during the fall?"

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, responds, "My hope and plan for it is that it will run throughout the summer. To explain it better, we have a partnership with URec already, so URec will be fully running the service. So, you can go to Currie Center with your UCard and say you want a bike. They will scan your card and give the bike like if you were to take a basketball from the gym, its the same system.

There used to be a shed but it's too small, it right next to the dumpster. You will basically go with the URec Staff, and they will give you the bike, helmet, and a lock. And I think we agreed on 72 hours on the booking, and then it has to come back and you either take it again or if there are people waiting then it's given to them."

Board of Governor, Vishnu Vardhan, inquires, " So, the transition between you and the next person involved in the role will not affect?"

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, responds, "No, it shouldn't because URec will continue this service. In theory, the incoming could decide not to continue it. They can also expand it. But it's self-sufficient regardless of me, I suppose, once its started."

Inclusion representative, Jillian Carson, asks, " This one is for Brennan too. I used the Rising Youth grant for a project back home. Is that something that you have to do through the Student Union team or is it your own name?"

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, replies, "That's Katelynn's grant. I have a grant for another project. The way it works is the time that we sign on it is volunteer time so it will be an excess of our 15 hours a week, where the Student Union is registered as Profit, the equipment once the project is done can be donated to the Student Union. It's definitely working the system of it on it."

Inclusion representative, Jillian Carson, asks, "It's a wonderful resource, I remember there is a time period and maybe we can only get one."

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds, "Yeah, it shouldn't. Anyone that does it, its good resource for Councillor project. There is only a page with three tiers to it. Me and Katelynn applied and got the full 1500 next day. It's a great resource."

8. Announcements

President, Kordell Walsh, adds, ' I will just reiterate what Will had said earlier. There are still quite some positions open so if you know folks, then encourage them to apply, it's a great way to get involved, it's paid, it looks great on the resume, Councillor positions are relatively low commitment and Executive positions are paid hourly at a good rate of pay at \$15 an hour. So, its definitely worth while."

Other Business

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, states, "Since no one else has anything else to say we will move to adjournment."

Adjournment

Resolution 029-21

That Council adjourns the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Mover: Brennan Marks

Secunder: Houda El Hajjaoui

The vote passes unanimously.

Kordell Walsh - President



Ridhi Sharma - Secretary



Ridhi Sharma (Nov 16, 2021 15:20 AST)