

Minutes - UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2022/2023

December 4, 2022; in-person meeting with hybrid option



Present:

- Amy (virtual)
- Zach (virtual)
- Rayleh (virtual)
- Keri (virtual)
- Molly (virtual)
- Bradley (virtual)
- Gaia (virtual)
- Kartik (virtual)
- Patrick (virtual)
- Heer (virtual)
- Kisenge (virtual)
- Kordell
- Rose
- Annie
- Amanda
- Isabella
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- Ally
- Sarah
- Jorja
- Sean
- Abby
- Alexa
- Kianna
- Amy (virtual)
- Kate

Not Present:

- Luc

Regrets:

- Emily
- Warren
- Ridhi
- Minh
- Sangeet

- Abby Snodgrass (Secretary)

Also present: Josh (Council Chairperson) and Annie (Acting Secretary)

1. Call to Order

- Council chairperson, Josh, calls the meeting to order at 7:03 PM AST.

1.1. Roll Call

- Council chairperson, Josh, performs roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda for December 4, 2022, is approved with the amendment of removing item 8.1.
- Mover: Chair assumed.
- Secunder: Sean
- Notes: No discussion
- The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

3. Chair's Remarks

3.1. Territorial Acknowledgement

- Chair - I just want to acknowledge that UNB stands on the unsundered and unceded ancestral homelands of the Wolastoqey peoples.

3.2. General Remarks

- Chair – A few things I want to add to today. As I previously said, Abby cannot be here to take minutes so thankfully Annie stepped in. I want to congratulate everyone for making it to the end of the semester and wish everyone the best of luck on final exams and projects. All councillor check-ins for “old” councillors are completed now. More check-ins will be started in winter with Isabella and myself with the new councillors from the by-election. Another note is I have a new office in the SUB which is where check-ins will take place moving forward in room 123B; furthermore, all agendas and minutes will be posted outside of my office along with any pertinent documents such as bylaws, council procedure, hr policies, etc. I will be there most days to work on some business and can solidify my hours once in the next semester. Any questions before we move on?

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Chair - The previous council minutes were sent in the agenda for this week as a hyperlink. Did anyone have any questions on them?
- Chair - Are there any other questions regarding the previous minutes?
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes from November 27, 2022, are approved.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Secunder: Kordell

- Notes: No discussion
- The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

5. Substantive Business

5.1. In-Camera Discussion – Sexual Assault

- Chair - We are now going to be entering an in-camera session

5.2. Student Leader Code of Conduct Contracts

- Chair – When everyone was brought into their positions, they were supposed to sign the student code of conduct. Some are out of date, and some haven't been given the forms to sign so I'm going to pass them around for everyone to sign. For those online, they can come in and sign or they can digitally sign.
- Kordell – I would like to request folks also print their name on the forms to keep an easier record of who has completed them.
- Chair – Thank you everybody. I know some of you might have previously signed them, but we just wanted to make sure everything's in order. Does anyone have questions before we continue?

5.3. Discussion on the Updated UNBSU Council Committee List

- Chair - Some of the lists for council committees weren't updated, especially since the by-election happened. I wanted to double check the committees everyone's on, and if people aren't on committees to help them join one.
- Kordell - Could we email folks to have a written copy and to speed up the process? This might take too much time to try to go through tonight.
- Chair – Certainly, as for a general statement the Internal affairs chair is TBD; we have a few members not on any committees yet which will be sorted. An email is being sent out later to check-in with councillors surrounding this matter.

5.4. Discussion on Council Communication Methods

- Sean – I would like to propose that council creates a group chat for better communication. Platforms can be discussed; however, it could be a good way to become more connected and be able to discuss agendas and such before meetings. I feel email is vary formal and takes a long time to fill out and that this would give us a method for quicker messaging. I'm open to suggestions surrounding platform choice. Currently my thoughts are Teams could work well as everyone already has and is most likely familiar with it, it can be divided into channels (ex: non-faculty/faculty specific chats), it is available on mobile and allows video chats. I do recognize not everyone is a fan of teams after online school and so there are also other options. BAUS uses slack and it seems to work well. It has similar traits to teams, but some members may not be familiar with it or be hesitant to use a new platform. Both of these also allow file sharing. Another member suggested discord. File sharing is limited, and roles can be assigned for this, but some may not have used it and be hesitant and not familiar with platform. Facebook messenger is easy to use

but can't be divided into separate specific chats and the Facebook group is not being utilized to full capacity currently. I am open to other suggestions or opinions.

- Alexa – I love slack but can you videocall?
- Kate – I'm pretty sure you can call but it's a payed feature.
- Amanda – Think of other people's time. It seems to be what people want. Executives meet before council and there could be a councillor/non-councillor group chat. Adding more lines of communication can get overwhelming as a student. Many channels can get overlapped and notifications can be consuming. Not being discouraged just a thought.
- Sean – most options have ability to turn notifications off. You can turn them off and it wouldn't be required, more so an option to reach out to people.
- Kordell – I appreciate the discussion and think it's worthwhile to get opinions. We do have a Teams page established, but we haven't used it and its overlooked and underutilized as the execs shared biweekly reports and had used it as dumping grounds for information that's offhand. We already have a Teams channel if folks want to try that option. I just wanted to highlight that infrastructure that's in place.
- Amanda – I'm not only speaking for personal feelings. It's my job to be a part as an executive but I don't want others to feel guilty for not participating. Everyone's working hard and we need to remember that and if we want to feel connected it's not hard to send a message.
- Chair – Anyone else?
- Sean – It is optional, it's good to have the option and to communicate better with each other and be able to connect.
 - Motion: How many people would use a platform such as this?
 - Mover: Sean
 - Secoder: Kordell
 - Notes: No discussion.
 - The vote passes. Motion carries.
- Chair – The result is people would use a platform such as this.
- Sean – It might be good to use teams as a trial run just to start.
- Kordell – I will make sure everyone's added tomorrow or Tuesday. If you haven't been added by EOD, send me an email. For folks who aren't in the Facebook group, add me and let me know so I can add you to the group.

5.5. Councillor of the Month - November

- Chair – This vote is the same as last month through the google form and council picked who was councillor of the month based on any attribute you thought was best. Results showed Amy Thompson won! You get a certificate and. Cellar gift card; I will email you to arrange a pick-up as you're joining

virtually. Would folks want to tack this meeting on to January for the next councillor of the month or do we want one for December too?

- Kordell – I don't want to pressure council to overwork during this busy time. Everyone should be able to take a break, and this could get competitive during exams leading to stress so it might be best to push it to January.
- Chair – We didn't do it in September, so it is not a one-off. Let's push it to January.

6. Reports to Council

6.1. Vice President - Events and Services

- The Food coordinator and I met and debriefed about the Food Bingo held at the Cellar. We were pleased with its success.
 - I met with Miriam Student Engagement to debrief and discuss other upcoming events we'd like to partner on.
 - We also met with The Preside of the Board for the Fredericton Exhibition grounds to discuss Winter Frostival.
 - DCE and I met, discussed, and planned, Band Night at the Cellar. We had to meet with the Cellar prior to, discussing ticket sales, and sound check prices. We then debriefed about the event.
 - DCE and I met about Winter Carnival, we also met with Nick about Winter Carnival, the act we want to give an offer to, and discussed the budget for the event. I had virtual meetings with different talents for the event. Molly and I also met with Ski & Board club to discuss the Rail Jam aspect of it.
 - I had a few meetings regarding the Sexual Assault Case.
 - I had my second Student Life and Awards Committee meeting.
 - I approved and submitted time sheets for the DCE and SafeRide Coordinator.
 - I escalated a complaint for a student regarding their health and dental benefits.
 - I met with some Forstery students about an application for their garden.
 - I met with the SafeRide coordinator to go over some issues that have come up. We also discussed and made a plan for the STU event we will be driving for.
 - We had our weekly executive meeting to discuss ongoing matters. Kordell and I met individually about a few other items as well.
 - Karen and I met to discuss what the SafeRide Coordinator will do over the Holidays for work.
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- Kate – I just wanted to say that I loved battle of the bands and thought it was a great success!
 - Molly – (virtual) Thanks!

6.2. Vice President - Research and Policy

- Organized and facilitated MLA Monday with David Coon Monday
- Organized and facilitated MP Tuesday with Jenica Atwin Tuesday.
- Had a pre-meeting with Kordell and Ridhi about our Minister of Health Bruce Fitch meeting that unfortunately got rescheduled.
- Ridhi and I discussed framing for her meeting with Minister Green with Kordell
- Took part in our weekly executive meeting.
- Took part in planning for the chamber of commerce policy committee.
- Worked on the food paper policy for CASA.
- I finished doing high-rise notes about how meetings went for CASA from advocacy week.

6.3. Vice President - Communication

- Coordinated and took headshots of council members, edited and formatted images, and updated website with new photos
- Created and distributed bi-weekly newsletter
- Updated hiring page on the website and edited and re-formatted VP Academic job description page. Created and updated job story for Instagram and Facebook.
- Created stories and updated some posts for the SU services (saferide, health/dental and food). Finalizing those and then running by coordinators
- Sat on hiring interviews for RED Awards Chair with Isabella
- Met with Isabella to discuss planning for RED Awards
- Met with Graphic Designer and reached out to videographer surrounding upcoming events
- Met again with the Appointment Committee for the Associate Vice Provost Student Affairs and Services debriefing the interviews and providing insights for candidate selection
- Attended weekly executive meeting
- Attended MLA Monday and MP Tuesday events and took photos for future promotions
- Aided with event names and descriptions
- Coordinated with Graphic Designer surrounding promotions
- Created and posted schedule posts and story for the week
- Created bingo sheet for week and posts with student services for the snow building contest
- Reviewed and approved Live Music at the Cellar post and designed and published Eventbrite banner
- Designed and posted Live Music at the Cellar giveaway story

6.4. Vice President - Finance & Operations

- Started going through council things where I have taken it over, trying to figure out what I am doing.
- Did a council transition with Jorja, our new Forestry councillor.
- Did two RED interviews with Annie, going to hire Jhanvi.
- Trying to hire Orientation chair but we are currently experiencing issues with coordination among hiring personnel which are non-unbsu
- Meeting with Science councillor today.
- Emailed the selections committee in regards to the interviews coming up with VP Academic, want to get it done as soon as possible.

6.5. Vice President - Student Wellness

Kordell provided a brief update from Ridhi.

6.6. President

- Had a pre-meeting with Ridhi ahead of our meeting with Minister Jill Green, Minister of Housing
- Rose, Ridhi and I had a meeting ahead of our scheduled meeting with Bruce Fitch, Minister of Health, however the actual meeting got rescheduled.
- We had our weekly executive meeting
- I uploaded the final notes from our advocacy meetings with CASA
- I had the UNB Bi-Campus Sexual Assault Task Force Meeting
- I had CASA's Board Meeting, and prepared for CASA's National Advocacy Committee
- I had a few discussions with Becky from the SUB regarding the upcoming renovations and various projects happening with that
- I had Student Standings and Promotions
- I prepared for the upcoming Board Meeting, upcoming Affordable Housing Committee meeting, etc.
- I took some lieu time from both advocacy weeks and both other CASA trips
- I answered emails, made phone calls, etc.

7. Announcements

- Annie – I just wanted to remind everyone of this week's events and encourage folks to attend our wellness week! We would love to see you all there and a lot of hard work has been put into organizing the events from Ridhi.

- Isabella – I would also like to remind everyone that Townhouse casino night is happening Thursday in the SUB. Townhouse Coordinator has been working hard to make this happen and it would be great if you all could come!
- Rose – I just want to point out and appreciate Annie and Ridhi for all the hard work they've been putting into wellness week.
- Annie – Just to add on to Isabella's announcement, the event is at 7pm and will be a 5\$ entry fee with free mocktails provided! There will be lots of games and I will be there running the photo booth.

8. Other Business

- Gaia – I was reached out to by a student yesterday. They voiced concern of the National Day of Remembrance of Violence Against Women event specifically with PC MLA Jill Green as the speaker at the event. Due to her stance speaking against clinic 554, abortion issues, and women's issues, the student felt it was inappropriate for Jill Green to be the speaker. Do we as the UNBSU want to comment on this?
- Kianna – I have had interactions with her in the past and have had no problems. She has been very supportive of indigenous issues and has been generally pleasant to speak with.
- Kate – I hadn't known she was speaking, but I want to say that I know the people in charge of organizing the event and trust their judgement and that they would take this into consideration.
- Alexa – I know students organizing it that would have a comment for a change of heart in this. Would Gaia be comfortable reaching out to the student to see what they have to say and if there's any specific issues or just with their party?
- Amanda – I have been working with Cathy Holtman while interning at liberty lane. I trust their judgement in choosing a speaker, it's hard to judge someone based on party and what their personal values are separate from that. If we want to get involved, we should go to somebody before we make an announcement.
- Jorja – The main thing to note is statements about the political party and not the person themselves. We are speaking about person and her role in her job and not her party's belief's
- Kordell – I'm a straight white cisgender male so I'm not able to speak on if it's appropriate because it's not my realm of experience, but I do want to note that we as a Student Union are non-partisan and work with all political parties for the needs of all students and they're speaking as MLA at the event and not as a member of the conservative party. We're also not the organizing body; diversity within engineering should be made aware of this as they are the ones controlling the event. I do hear and appreciate the concerns and think it was important to bring up.

- – I want to reiterate that it's important to understand that while she's her own person, she runs under a political party and would align herself with them and their beliefs which is important to remember.
- Amanda – I feel sometimes we as a council can bring up our opinion on something that can go on so far and take a lot of time. A lot of current time on council is not being focused on the student body. We have so many things and we get muddled into things. What're we trying to do is determining what is our impact, values, morals, what we are trying to accomplish and stand for. I'm not disregarding what's happened as I am currently working with sexual violence that's happening, but I want everyone to take a moment to reflect. What're we spending our time on?
- Gaia – Just as a quick reply; I was requested by student to bring this forward, and they were asking to bring it up.
- Amanda – I think it could be good to indicate these issues to the president in the future.
- Kordell – I think it's worthwhile for council to bring these things forward. As representatives of faculties and constituents it is the role of councillors to bring these items up. Without further information or contact, to take a stance without more context about conversation might not be the best course of action.
- Alexis – thanks for bringing this forward and if you want help bringing this to the organizers, I would be happy to help. Everyone feeling safe is important and taking the right stance is important. Making people feel valued is important.
- Gaia – Taking this conversation, are we contacting and asking student more information to take to organizers to discuss. If we need action, we will bring it to the executives.
- Kate – Cathy is wonderful and has good head on shoulders and might not be aware of or thought through and will take this seriously.
- Kordell – I would love to hear the follow up and would like to acknowledge that we can hold an e-vote on this and were more than happy to work with council to find the right decision. The conversation doesn't have to end here.
- Chair – Is there anything else to add? Are we looking for a vote?
- Gaia - I'm planning on taking action as mentioned before.
- Keri – I have a question regarding honorarium forms. Jill was previously supposed to hand out the forms and am wondering how that is happening now?
- Chair – I'm holding them right now. I was waiting to bring them up at the end of the other business. It was previously being monitored by Jill, and now Isabella has taken over. We have talked and surrounding how this is the last one. Forms were in the transition packets.

- Sean – They were also in the handbook.
- Chair – It says on the forms to email them to the VP Academic, so email it to Isabella (finance@unbsu.ca) or myself (chair@unbsu.ca) instead. Updated forms to have that email and will be sent digitally and I have the physical copies here for folks if you want to fill them out.

9. Adjournment

- Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU council meeting for December 4th, 2022, be adjourned at 8:12 PM AST.
- Mover: Chair assumed
- Seconder: Abby
- Notes: No further discussion.
- The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

Kaitlin Calder
Secretary

Kimberly Walsh
President