

Executive Report

Prepared for: UNBSU Council 2021/2022

May 28th, 2021



President – Kordell Walsh

Hey everyone! It's hard to believe that it's almost June!! These past few weeks have been a busy time with conferences and strategic planning! It's been great settling into the role and beginning to see things fall in place as we prepare for the year ahead!

NBSA

We held our NBSA transition conference, and it was insightful. It helped me gain a better understanding of the inner workings of the NBSA, and its relationships with various stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labour (PETL) or the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce. We also received media relations training from STU, which was very valuable to me! We also elected our Chair and Vice Chair. Our next big NBSA conference is in a few weeks, and it will focus on policy.

CASA

As I am writing this, Tea and I are almost done with CASA Foundations, my first conference with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. The conference was held virtually this year due to COVID, and despite the virtual platform we've had some great discussions and learned plenty. Through this conference, I have gained a better understanding of how CASA functions. We also received bystander intervention training and cultural competency training. The second half of the conference is focused on issues that matter to student associations across the country, and the election of CASA's board of governors and committee membership.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning went great. We dedicated three days to strategic planning, and we had lots of great discussions about improving our services, advocacy work, and general vision for the coming year! Our student feedback survey was well received, and we have gotten so much great feedback. This has been very helpful, and guided our conversations during strategic planning. I'm very excited to be able to show you folks the plan. Now I'm working on short initiative descriptions for the initiatives I will be taking on, and the rest of the plan is in the hands of Niko, who is putting things on paper, and making them look great!

Other Meetings/Business

Over the last two weeks I have also had various additional meetings. I attended the last Board of Governors meeting as a guest in a virtual format. It was a great introduction into how the board operates and I'm really excited for the coming year. I have also met with some committees and have become more involved in their work. They have been great introductions to university administrators and ongoing work within the university. Lastly, I have been working on organizing and finalizing things with the amalgamation of ALPS (the student organization that represented Adult Learners and Part-Time Students) so that it will be a smooth transition in the fall.

Vice President Advocacy- Téa Fazio

It has been a busy time of transitioning into CASA and the NBSA for me as well as working on our Strategic Plan for the year. Our team has jumped full-force into the work for our roles and we are getting settled in the office. There is a lot going on but it is so exciting to begin to envision what the coming year will look like.

Strategic Planning

Our executive team took on strategic planning to determine our goals for next year and for the SU as a whole as well as to lay out what initiatives we each want to make happen. I hosted a discussion on our advocacy goals for the year which include giving students more opportunities to get involved, a likely federal election coming up, sexual violence prevention, mental health, and so much more. It was three full days of intense meetings but we came out of it with a great plan and as a stronger team. I can't wait for you folks to see the new plan when it is finished.

Asian Heritage Month

The first post for Asian Heritage Month went out on our social media, it focused on defining why we celebrate and recognize AHM as well as defining what groups of people generally belong within the broad category of being Asian. Stay tuned for the next post. Niko did a ton of the work to make my research look readable and eye-catching along with some incredible advice, so major thanks to her!

Statement on Violence in Palestine/Israel

The UNBSU released a statement recognizing the violence that has been taking place in Palestine and Israel and providing resources for students whose mental health may be impacted by it. Niko and I worked on research and drafting of this statement which we then reviewed as a team. It has been challenging as the UNBSU has to remain nonpartisan as an organization but we felt it was still important to

recognize the feelings of many of our students while trying to remain neutral on the political side of things. Another shoutout to Niko for meeting with students who had feedback about the statement and for working with me to make changes to the statement so it better reflects what students want to see.

Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP)

The UNB Sexual Violence Policy Review Committee met to determine the next phase in our consultations, I suggested that we put out a survey for all students to share their feedback about our procedures at UNB, stay tuned for that coming out on the UNBSU socials soon.

Consultations

I have continued introductory conversations with the VP Externals from other universities in Canada. Kordell and I met with members of the executive teams at St. Mary's University SU (in Halifax), Athabasca University SU (Alberta), and the University of Calgary SU (Calgary). We also participated in a meet and greet session for all the maritime CASA members.

Kordell and I met to discuss ways in which the VP Advocacy role has changed over the past 5 years or so and whether the name is really representative as Deanna (VP Internal) does a lot of advocacy work as well. This process is ongoing.

NBSA

Kordell and I attended NBSA Transition over the weekend to meet the other board members from MtA, STU, and UNB-SJ. We participated in media training, a review of the purpose and procedures of the NBSA, meetings with the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce and members of PETL (Postsecondary Education Training and Labour), and more. Looking forward to policy and strategy planning in June with the NBSA to determine our shared priorities and advocacy objectives for the year.

CASA

Kordell and I have been participating in a virtual Foundations conference with CASA (the "national union of student unions") where we have been covering a lot of content from the current political landscape and policies to EDI and bystander training, and more. Foundations is taking up most of my week but I am excited to be building connections with other SUs across Canada and learning more about CASA.

Mental Health

Brennan and I met with Matt MacLean from UNB Counselling to brainstorm about a mental health campaign for the upcoming year that focuses on breaking stigmas about mental health and mental illness as well as highlights the different resources we have available on campus.

Fun Stuff

Our executive had a meeting about our workplace boundaries and best ways to support each other during strategic planning. We also went out for a picnic lunch on the Quad to enjoy the newfound sunshine.

Thanks for reading through my report! If you have any questions or thoughts please feel welcome to reach out to me at advocacy@unbsu.ca
Hope you're enjoying the sunshine folks, Cheers!

Vice President Internal – Deanna Merriam

Happy Friday everyone! I hope you're all enjoying the sunshine and getting excited about the year ahead. We've been working hard in the offices to prepare for this year so we hope you're as excited as we are!

Senate

I attended the last senate meeting for the previous years senators last Monday. Unfortunately Grace Pelkey wasn't there, but it was still a great opportunity to see how Senate is run in an online sense. I'm really hoping that we can get to in-person meetings this year, and if things continue on the path we're on, that may actually be possible! As of the next Senate meeting all the new student senators are able to attend and vote, so I am thrilled to get in there with everyone!

MS Teams Overview

This past week Bhavya and I attended a MS Teams overview session put on by the university to learn more about how professors and student leaders can use the features of teams to enhance student experiences this year. If we are unable to host socials or events in person I'm hoping to take advantage of the town hall format on teams to maximise student engagement. I know this past year was less than ideal for so many of our students, so this overview session was helpful in learning some new ways to make that experience a little better. Hopefully we won't need online tech for this coming semester but fingers crossed!

Strategic Planning

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week we went through our strategic plan for the 2021-2022 year. I am extremely excited to get started, and have compiled all initiatives related to me and my role in order to get going. Niko is currently working on the document for you folks and hopefully soon that can be sent along to everyone! There's a lot of recurring initiatives such as Red Awards, Winter Carnival, etc... but also some new ones! Unfortunately a lot of the ongoing VP Internal projects from previous years were not continued last year so I have been touching base with offices on campus that are involved in proposals like the add/drop date extension, and more. Hopefully we won't have to start from ground zero and can pick up where it was left off 2 years ago! I hope to have more on this soon!

General Meetings

I had some meetings this week with various members of the UNB Community. Meeting with folks in societies to work out some concerns with their constitution in relation to our council, meetings to discuss student appointments to Senate Search Committees, and meeting with Sara Rothman to touch base about how Student Services and VP Internal interact, all of these meetings were extremely helpful in getting started for this year.

Call w/ Previous VP Internal Grace Mangusso

This week I had what was arguably the most helpful and informative conversation about this role and previous projects I've had yet!! A majority of my transition report was initiatives copied from Grace Mangussos report (for those of you who aren't familiar with her she was VP Internal 2 years ago), and she was willing to have a call to go in depth with me on her experiences with these projects. We chatted for a long time about proposals such as the add/drop extension date, the course repeat policy, extended library hours, the book buy & sell, and so much more. I appreciate her willingness to hop on that call immensely and we had such a productive conversation about initiatives. Unfortunately it's looking like because they haven't been touched in the past year, I will have to rebuild foundations with the UNB offices that have a say in them (i.e. the registrar, ITS, library, and more).

I have to say despite the setback, I am so excited to get started building relationships with these offices and hopefully accomplish some great programs and projects that students will benefit from!

Book Buy & Sell / APC

The UNBSU Book Buy & Sell is a week-long event that happens once a semester, usually right at the start. This week I have gone through Grace Mangussos notes on the buy & sells that she had run with her Academic Programming Coordinator and am thrilled to say that they will be happening in person this coming year! The space is officially booked and as I booked I discussed the potential need for an operational plan to abide by university public health guidelines and I do believe it can happen (just not at full capacity). I am absolutely thrilled for this, and as APC applications close tonight, I am looking forward to starting this project fully.

Menstrual Product Dispenser

This past week I have restarted discussions surrounding the Free Menstrual Product Dispensers on campus with UNB Staff. Coincidentally, I was also contacted by a lovely student who is eager to expand the project with the UNBSU. After meeting to discuss her vision for the project, I'm happy to say that we will be collaborating with Caroline Stephens over this coming year to push the free dispenser proposals through campus. Hopefully as this project becomes successful, Caroline and I will be looking into long-term implementation strategies to ensure this project does not fall victim to a lack of institutional memory and is lost in turnover. She is incredibly enthusiastic and passionate about this proposal and I am thrilled to have her advocate with me on this vision.

Retail Review Committee

Thursday afternoon Kordell and I attended the Retail Service Review committee to discuss some proposed changes to the Student Union Building (SUB). While this committee is confidential until the changes are finalized I unfortunately cannot share too much, however I will say that I am looking forward to having meaningful and student-interest focused conversations within this group.

Meeting with UNB Libraries

On Friday I met with Lesley Balcom, the Dean of Libraries to discuss some upcoming (and exciting) projects I have planned for the year. She has been supportive of UNBSU efforts in the past and I am very excited to work with her this year as VP Internal.

Senate Standing Committees and SU Committees Update

I'm finally making progress on the committee recommendations I will be sending to Senate Nominating Committee! After many adjustments I have found a way that works for the executives that will be occupying seats as well as our senators' choices. I will be sending out these placements to the senators before submission to the committee just to ensure they are informed as to what is happening, but then we will be good to go!

Additionally, I have finished reviewing the existing parts of our UNBSU Committee Policy, and have now turned to the additions I will be making such as reference to the hiring committees for various UNBSU positions, the potential EDI committee, and steering committees. These changes will be presented to you folks in September in the form of a proposal, and sent to our policy committee for review.

And that's all from me! As always don't hesitate to reach out to me at internal@unbsu.ca should you have any questions or concerns!

Vice-President Finance & Operations - Bhavya Pratap Malhotra

After the first two weeks at the job, I was able to get a good overview of the roles and responsibilities within this position. One of the biggest aspects related to the summer term for the job position is our team's Strategic Plan for the upcoming academic term. The designated time of our strat planning went from Wednesday, May 19th- Friday, May 21st. The details pertaining to it are provided below. Other than the specific responsibilities within the Strat Planning, the hiring posts for all the three Coordinator positions were posted on the UNBSU social media by Niko Coady.

Clubs and Societies Rebranding

With help of Niko Coady, we were able to update the document in regards to the constitution policies on the UNBSU Clubs and Societies page. After our initial discussion about the removal of non-existing deals on the Clubs and Societies page, Niko removed them and updated that section as well.

As I had previously communicated the addition of a conferences tab on the UNBSU Clubs and Societies page, I was able to discuss it with the whole team within our weekly executive meeting. Niko also made a great point of including the document page about Inclusion and Diversity within all the new information we would be posting on the platform. The team agreed upon the idea to host this new tab catered to any student or clubs and societies led conferences, that can include workshops as well.

I had a meeting with Kaitlyn Catts from the UNB Conference Services and she was on board with this idea of incorporating a conferences tab on the UNBSU website. More than that, she provided an idea to embed the conference event registration form on the tab as well.

Hiring

The application deadline for all the three positions- Director of Campus Events, Academic Programming Coordinator and the Clubs & Societies Coordinator, have been extended till May 28th, Friday (mid-night). Till now, we have a good amount of applications coming in for all these three positions. The interview questions related to the respective positions have been sent to the supervisors and they have made the appropriate changes to them.

Orientation

I forwarded the script and document about the Sponsorship package content to Orientation Chair, Ellen Petrie. We have a meeting scheduled to talk about the Orientation sponsorship this week as well.

Strategic Planning

Our team's strategic planning occurred from Wednesday May 19th- Friday May 21st. We went through the Vision 2023 document and looked into role specific aspects covered under the document. From the list of all the major and minor events made by us, I am organizing and assisting fellow team members with the Finance Week, Clubs and Societies Fair, Implementation of Blind Hiring practices, International week and Global Gala, creation of Policy and EDI coordinators, etc.

I have already started brainstorming ideas about the Financial Literacy part with Brennan and the hiring for our coordinators is going well for now. I would soon sit down with Tea and start formalizing the Employment Equity plan. We would also discuss and go over the implementation of blind hiring practices within the UNBSU.

Meetings

1. Met with Kaitlyn Catts from Conference Services to talk about the creation of a separate tab for "Conferences" on the UNBSU website.

2. Met with Mark Walma, Sara Rothman and Gillian McLean to talk about the Student Event Planning Process for the Fall-term. The meeting was very productive as our next agenda is to get a meeting scheduled with the Student Event Risk Management Committee [SERM] and work upon the event guidelines for the students.

Finance

Cleared the last outstanding reimbursement cheque from last year for Girls Stem-Up.

Sent away more e-gift cards for the remaining amounts to be cleared for student honorariums

Operations

- Had a meeting with Shades of Change Organization Finance Director- Anna Lee.
- The discussion was related to the funding aspect and UNBSU ratification.
- Cleared the funding request made by the UNB Cricket Club and had a meeting with the club president.
- Sitting down with Tea soon to start the work for EDI Hiring Plan.

Tasks Ahead

- After the initial meeting with Mark, Sara and Gillian, I have been looking into the Student Event Planning Guide for other universities (we noted some points from the University of Calgary's Student Event Planning) and would discuss what might be beneficial to include.
- A meeting with all the previous Student Event Risk Management Committee [SERM] is being scheduled for early next week.
- Work on the updates of my passion projects as well as the projects I am assigned to under the team strategic planning.

Vice-President Student Life - Brennan Marks

Wow two more weeks in the book and it's pretty much June. CRAZY!! I hope you all have been having a great few weeks. I know we have been having a very busy time here at the SU offices. Here are my updates on my portfolio:

The Garden

The garden is pretty much set to go, we are just waiting for final approval from UNB on our operational plan. I created the two Typeforms for the garden one sign-up sheet and one waiting list! Shout out to Niko for teaching me how to use Typeform

<3 The Typeform to register for plots should be up now or early in the week coming! I had a couple of meetings with Sean our garden coordinator to put together the final touches. We have our contracts for plots ready to go and should be welcoming people to the garden next week. I met with Danielle Smith from UNB Sustainability to discuss the garden as she has been involved since it was created. We had a productive chat about some important regulations and she suggested some funds and grants to apply for to continue improving our garden! I had a meeting with Don Allen of UNB Security to discuss the operations of the garden this year. There are hopefully some more exciting garden-related projects coming so stay tuned!

SafeRide

This week I took all of the vans to have their summer tires put on! I am still waiting to hear back from Hyundai about the decals. During stat planning, I outlined some major goals for SafeRide for this year including continuing the work on retrofitting one vehicle to have a wheelchair lift. I am also hoping to have the Currie Center as a permanent pick-up location and extending hours. These plans are still in their infancy and will hopefully continue to come together as the summer goes on. I also met with STUSU Friday to review the contract and discuss our plans for the service.

SLIC

No Updates this week.

Food

Food bag orders are live!! If you are in Fredericton and would like to order one of these bags you can order online at this link: <https://unbsu.typeform.com/to/JDCUIF> for \$17, or you can pay cash at the Welcome Centre for \$15! Orders are due Wednesday, June 2nd, and pick up is Thursday, June 10th at the Welcome Centre!!

Agenda

I am going full force on the agenda now as we have decided to print them earlier this year to ensure they are in every Orientation Kit. I have met with our designer Charlie and he is super excited to be back on the project. I met with Rocket (formally Taylor Printing) and they are also excited to partner with us again to print all of our agendas. One of the biggest challenges of the agenda is securing advertisements so I have put together an advertising package and sent emails to various businesses around campus and Fredericton to offer them some ad space in this year's agenda. New this year will be a page highlighting student-run businesses (shout out Kordel for this awesome idea). We will be posting soon to our socials to let student entrepreneurs know that there is free ad space available for them. If you know of any student business owners please pass this info onto them!! I have also been collecting the rest of the various pieces needed for the agenda from different folks all over so this has been consuming a lot of my time these past few weeks.

Odds & Ends

- The team completed three days of strategic planning last week, and our finalized plan will be out for you to see soon. I also created short descriptions for all the initiatives assigned to me during strat planning. Be sure to check out all of the great events and initiatives we have planned and please provide any feedback and suggestions you may have! We are here for you and want to make your ideas a reality!!
- After our group's strategic plan I began forming my own personal strategic plan for the year to ensure I am able to honor my commitments made in the overall strat plan.
- I have been working on a video and presentation with Student Services on Off-Campus Living for S.O.A.R. which is this weekend!
- Ellen and I took some time and took stock of everything we have in the SU storage coop in the SUB basement, this was quite the task but we have a much better idea of what we have to make sure we don't buy anything unnecessary this year.
- Niko and I met to make changes to our health and dental website. I cannot wait for you all to see it! We also have some exciting news coming out soon about health and dental so stay tuned!!
- I reviewed the feedback provided in our Feedback Survey, I will be sitting down with this again next week to make some plans based on the feedback. The survey is still live on our website be sure to let your voice be heard!
- Prepared for the Director of Campus Events interviews by reviewing our questions and suggesting some updates. There is still time to apply if you are interested, applications are due on the 28th of May at 11:59 pm.

Vice-President Communications - Niko Coady

Hi everyone - I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine.

I am starting to feel more settled in my role and we have had a busy couple of weeks.

As I am sure you already have seen - we did our strategic planning last week.

I will only touch on the major initiatives that apply to me as I am sure you will all be tired of hearing about it.

Strat Planning & Comms Plan

The major initiatives that have come from strat planning for me are a revamp of our social media, putting together the actual strategic plan, finalizing our Communications and Marketing plan and creating an up to date P.R. crisis response plan! I have finalized a draft of the PR plan and shared it with Kordell for his review.

You may have noticed already, but I also archived ALL of the old Instagram posts (there were so many). I really want to get the best out of our social media this year and make our brand more consistent. A major aspect of this is the Communications and Marketing plan I am working on, which goes into depth on how to use each social media platform and includes research on what type of content performs best where.

I also met with Kordell to review what our Strat Plan should look like this year and have gotten in touch with all of the executive members to provide descriptions of each initiative that will be included in the plan. I am so excited to make it look beautiful and I am looking forward to hearing your feedback on it!

Website

The new Orientation section of the website is now LIVE and includes the launch of this year's theme and logo. Ellen and Evan provided me with the info for the site and I updated all of it for this week to go with their launch of the new logo. Check it out if you haven't already and get ready for Voyage Freddy Beach!

I am also working on a new and improved page for the Health and Dental Insurance, big thank you to Brennan and Karen for all of the info and resources! This will hopefully make it more clear for students to understand their insurance plan and the options provided - and it will link out to a live chat feature with We Speak Student, our insurance provider, if there are more questions.

Social Media

Our statement on Palestine/Israel has gone up, and since then an update has been provided as well. I have met with a few students who gave us feedback and resources on our statement and I am so glad that we were able to have productive discussions on how the Union can provide better advocacy and representation to our students online and across our social media platforms!

The last few "UNBSU & YOU" posts will be going up on Instagram this week, along with a second part of our Asian Heritage Month Campaign. We received some great feedback on our first Asian Heritage month stories, which was so exciting to hear.

Breaking Stereotypes

I sat down with Deanna this week to review the content that was filmed for the Breaking Stereotypes: Microaggressions campaign. We have blocked the day out on Friday to go through all of the videos, and we have been in contact with the committee members to determine what their vision is for this campaign. I am hopeful that we will be able to finalize this campaign and put it out this summer as the content is incredibly important!

Student Feedback Survey

We have had an INCREDIBLE response to our feedback survey. I spent a lot (!) of time going through the responses and have sorted them into sections based on which

executive member they apply to. This survey is going to be an extremely helpful resource for the whole team to rely on and I am feeling so grateful for all of the detailed feedback we got from students.