



**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK**  
**STUDENT UNION**

# **External Political Representation Policy**

**University of New Brunswick Student Union**

Enacted: February 22, 2015

Revised: April 7, 2019

Revised March 25, 2021

University of New Brunswick Student Union Incorporated  
**External Political Representation Policy**

**1. Mandate**

- 1.1 To outline the manner in which the UNB Student Union will effectively represent its members at all levels of external government (Municipal, Provincial, and Federal). The UNBSU believes that external political representation is an important part of the student union's responsibility to its members and will strive to achieve effective representation at all levels of government.

The UNBSU believes that any external political representation must be representative of the advocacy needs of the membership.

**2. Definitions**

- 2.1 **“Council”** refers to the Council defined by Bylaw No. 1;

**“Official Review”** refers to a written report outlining the details of the proposal recommending the reasons for joining or severing membership with an external political organization.

**“UNBSU”** refers to the University of New Brunswick Student Union Inc.

**3. Membership**

- 3.1 The UNBSU has official membership within the

3.1.1 New Brunswick Student Alliance (“NBSA”); and,

3.1.2 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (“CASA”)

- 3.2 The UNBSU may sever membership agreements with an external political/lobby organization if Advocacy Committee, Executive Committee, and Council ratify two consecutive Official Reviews recommending severance.

- 3.3 The UNBSU may immediately sever membership agreements with an organization by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of Council if there are serious, legal, criminal, or financial concerns with that organization. The organization in question must be given two weeks notification prior to any such votes being held.

- 3.4 Should the UNBSU decide to vote to sever a membership agreement with an organization in accordance with Section 3.2 or 3.3 efforts should be made to inform the UNBSU membership.
- 3.5 The UNBSU may join an external political/lobby organization if all of the following conditions are met:
  - 3.5.1 Advocacy Committee, Executive Committee, and Council ratify two consecutive Official Reviews recommending membership.
  - 3.5.2 While reviewing an organization, the UNBSU will perform the required steps to be an observer at all conferences and events of the organization in question, prior to joining.
- 3.6 The autonomy of the UNBSU must be maintained in any external political organization that the UNBSU is a part of. The UNBSU shall not join and shall endeavour to remove itself from any external organization that limits the autonomy of the UNBSU in any of the following ways:
  - 3.6.1 A requirement that the UNBSU enter into purchasing agreements with suppliers and companies as members of that external organization.
  - 3.6.2 A requirement to allow the staff/leaders/members of that organization access to UNB's campus or UNBSU events, even without the consent of the UNBSU.
  - 3.6.3 A requirement to allow the external organization to distribute flyers/materials/printed content on UNB's campus, even without the consent of the UNBSU.

#### **4. Fees**

- 4.1 The UNBSU will collect and pay membership fees to external organizations in the amount defined by the organization.
- 4.2 The UNBSU must be notified of any fee increase by January 31st of the year preceding the increase. If the UNBSU is not notified of a fee increase by January 31st, the Vice President Advocacy will record this occurrence in their files on the organization to be passed on to the following year. After three fee increases without proper notice, the Vice President Advocacy can choose to conduct an Official Review of the organization in question.

- 4.3 The UNBSU will publish fees paid to external organizations through a per-student fee model presented during the annual budget presentation.
- 4.4 The UNBSU will strive to ensure that all fees paid out to external organizations are utilized in an effective and efficient manner, reflecting the needs of UNB students.

## **5. Representation**

- 5.1 The Vice President Advocacy will act as the UNBSU's primary voting delegate for external organizations or will select a delegate to act in their absence.
- 5.2 The President and Vice President Advocacy will act as representatives for the UNBSU at any external organization conferences or official meetings, or will select a designate to act in their absence. This includes NBSA conferences and CASA conferences. Selection for other representatives to attend conferences (i.e., NBSA Advocacy Week) will be conducted by the QVice President Advocacy and be ratified by the Executive committee, with priority being given to members of the Advocacy Committee.
- 5.3 Any delegate representing the UNBSU must act in the best interest of the UNBSU.

## **6. Policy**

- 6.1 Policy developed by an external organization must be reviewed by the Advocacy Committee and ratified by a simple majority of Council.
  - 6.1.2 Policies which are not ratified by Council will not become UNBSU policy but will remain policy of the external organization; and,
  - 6.1.3 UNBSU delegates, in their capacity as delegates to an external organization, may lobby for policy that is not explicitly supported by the UNBSU on behalf of the external organization, unless that policy is condemned by a simple majority vote of council.
  - 6.1.4 The UNBSU will strive to ensure that all policy developed and passed by external organizations act in the best interest and are reflective of the needs of UNBSU membership.