

Executive Report

Prepared for: UNBSU Council 2022/2023

May 27, 2022



President – Kordell Walsh

Hey folks! I hope everybody has had a fantastic two weeks. Over the last two weeks, we had the Strategic Planning Retreat, I took a vacation day, and we had a holiday.

Strategic Planning

Our executive team went on our strategic planning retreat! There was a lot discussed, and a lot of great feedback that we took into consideration! We had sessions about individual commitments, about student feedback, team bonding, and much more! We're really excited to present the strategic plan over the coming week or so! A couple key highlights from my portfolio will be renewing the Universal Bus Pass discussions as we have a new Transit Manager within Fredericton, renewing [UNBSU's Action Plan](#), which expires in 2023, but keep an eye out for the full plan soon!

Resignation Plan

Aside from strategic planning, another big task has been working with the team to establish a plan for dealing with the resignation of the VP Finance and Operations. The four main aspects of the position are: hiring; clubs and societies; council; and orientation.

What we have established so far is that in the interim, Jillian as VP Academic will oversee matters of Council. This will include organizing committees, overseeing the organization of council transition, the handbook, etc.

As for orientation: Karen, our General Manager, has offered to support Orientation in developing a budget, as she has supported in the development of the UNBSU and Orientation budgets for many years. For the sponsorship package for Orientation, Amanda will be supporting in developing theirs, as she will also be taking the lead in developing ours (of course, with our support). I will be meeting with the Orientation and Student Services team in their weekly meetings for now, and take on/delegate tasks as needed.

For hiring, we have decided that in the interim, any hiring will be managed by the direct supervisor. Typically our hiring committees are the direct supervisor and the VP Finance and Operations; and at times a 3rd individual. However, for this it will be the Direct Supervisor, and another 1-2 executives, with the

other executives being selected based on whose schedule works best for hiring that given period.

Lastly, Clubs and Societies. Surprisingly, a lot happens on this front over the summer, even though many students aren't on campus. This is a major aspect. For right now, I will be taking any funding requests forward to the executive and supporting clubs and societies.

However, I will be seeking permission from Council to discuss further and potentially offer part-time work to an individual to help offset some of the responsibilities in the short-term, and ensure we can focus as much attention on our own goals and responsibilities as possible. A proposal for this will go out to Council shortly. As longer-term solutions, we have two potential options from our discussions as an executive. Either hosting a summer-term election, or hiring an interim and having the position go back up in the by-election. Both have pros and cons that I will highlight in an email to council where I solicit feedback on what you folks would prefer us do.

General Business

- Met with Orientation regarding how to support them through the loss of the VP Finance position, which is also the treasurer of orientation
- Met with the President of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Students' Association (SAITSA) regarding my role on the Board with CASA and overall goals this year for the organization
- Had an interview with CBC News regarding tuition prices in the province. If you haven't read it, it is linked [here](#) and features comments from myself and the President of STUSU
- I reviewed and approved the monthly financial reports from CASA
- I met with Mark Walma, Becky Sullivan, and Ruth Buckingham to discuss the steps moving forward with the SUB Renovations and some outstanding concerns
- Attended a meeting of the Board of Governors
- Met with Amanda and the Executive Director of Greener Village regarding the Hamper Food Box Program and potential Food Bank
- Met with the CASA Board of Directors to finalize things before CASA Foundations on June 6
- I met with the REDS Field Hockey Team about potential ratification due to some financial difficulties, given the limited funding from UNB Athletics
- I attended a presentation to the Student Accessibility Center to discuss what the SU is, what we offer, and points of collaboration over the coming year
- I attended the Encaenia Dinner

- I attended a pre-Foundations get to know each other and information event with CASA and met many other Student Union representatives from across the country
- I attended a meeting with the Student Services Leadership team
- I attended a meeting with Jenica Atwin
- We set up a booth for Spring Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) this weekend and are really excited to be welcoming incoming students onto campus!

Vice President Student Wellness - Ridhi Sharma

Hey folks! I cannot believe we are almost in June. I hope everyone is enjoying the summers and taking time to themselves! We have been working hard for the coming year!

Strategic Planning Retreat

Last week, the team went on a retreat where we discussed team dynamics, boundaries, roles overview, and addressed the overlap between portfolios. We also allocated work under VPFO's portfolio to the team. We brainstormed passion projects for the strategic plan and reviewed the student feedback from the annual survey. We have exciting initiatives (new and recurring) planned for the year! We also drafted dates for the events in the academic year.

Joint Senate Meeting

As an outgoing senator, I sat at the joint senate meeting on the 19th of May with the other outgoing senators and Jillian. It was a wonderful opportunity to attend and participate in the discussion.

Asian Heritage Month

The month of May is Asian Heritage Month. Lydia and I discussed the questions and promotions for the student features, and I reached out to several students for the week. We also planned to do a movie night on 29th May. I have also been researching the 21-Day Racial Equity challenge training as a long-term resource.

Campus Culture Campaign

This campaign is a new initiative to broaden the BAE campaign. I had reached out to SVNB to discuss collaboration and thoughts on revamping the BAE campaign. I also had Compass, a company that serves as a mental health resource platform, reach out regarding collaboration and I have been in conversations with them.

Finance Week

For the finance week in November, I reached out to Shelly Clayton from Student Services regarding collaboration on an event. I also have been drafting a list of student-run businesses for a potential fair during the week. If you are aware of any, then kindly reach out! Since finance week is right after Sustainability, I am hoping to arrange a talk with a student who is passionate about sustainable finance.

EDII Plan

I met with Rose to discuss the EDI Survey done by HRPEO in 2020 and set up a meeting with Debra Ward. Rose and I worked on a set of questions relating to the EDI hiring practices, available trainings, Equity Innovation Fund, etc. I encouraged the team to get certified with the Unconscious Bias Training developed by HRPEO. I met with Amanda, VP Events and Services, to discuss the possibility of the addition of Ramadan hampers to the Food services. I also reached out to Tim Thornton regarding the diversity and accessibility of food options on campus. I met with Rose to discuss the scorecards and blind hiring practice for the Human Resource Policy. I also put forth the idea of doing executive introduction videos during orientation for the incoming students. Rose and I researched redaction and blind hiring practices in other institutions. I looked through the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion resources by HRPEO and emailed Hayden to discuss the EDI report and survey findings and the translation of them into initiatives for the student body. I also did an environmental scan of other institutions and their hiring policies and EDI policy. I met with VP Academic to discuss the possibility of diversity funds like accessibility bursary, anti-racism training fund, Pride Scholarship, and more. I also researched the role and responsibilities of the portfolio of EDI Coordinator.

Orientation

I met with Jhanvi, Orientation Chair, and Kanwar, Orientation Vice-Chair, to discuss EDII for training and events. I shared the findings from the EDI report and my research on blanket exercises, talking circle, and trainings like unconscious bias and anti-racism for student leaders. We agreed on collaborating on an EDII resource directory for the student leaders. I researched resources with certifications for the students.

Thank you for reading my update! If you have any questions at all, please feel free to email me at wellness@unbsu.ca

Vice President Academic – Jillian Carson

Hi all, I hope everybody has been having a wonderful end of May! I can not believe June is (almost) here, but I am beyond excited for more sunshine and to continue to see the work our team is doing grow.

Bits and Pieces

The strategic planning retreat took up most of last week, but this week I have been in the office working alongside the other execs and reaching out to my contacts on campus. I have worked this week with the Student Accessibility Centre, EUS, the SEMOAC Committee, and I have taken part in some other meetings such as our team meeting with Student Services. Ridhi and I spent some time discussing scholarship opportunities for students as well as training/educational opportunities for student leaders on campus. I have also spent some time looking into resources for mature learners, and I am planning to reach out to the College of Extended Learning to discuss these ideas further. Rose and Amanda have also been having some significant conversations around mental health with Matt Maclean and April Kennedy, and I have been working with them to further discuss the goal of having more syllabi on campus include mental health resources.

Strategic Planning Retreat

The executives all attended a four day retreat in Saint Andrew's last week. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to bond together as a team and get to know one another and determine how we can best work together to ensure our team is a success! We spent a significant amount of our time navigating our ideas for the strat plan, and we are excited to be finalizing that currently. We also mapped out our dates for the year and determined important dates and weeks and how we would like to have the year flow.

Senate

Since the last bi-weekly update there have been two meetings of the Senate. There was a Fredericton Senate meeting on the 16th, and a joint Senate meeting with UNBSJ on the 19th.

I was happy to be present in both of those meetings with our current student senators, some interesting new ideas were discussed and I am looking forward to seeing what comes from those conversations as well as how the Board of Governors will continue and contribute to the ideas discussed. I have also been continuing to prepare to appoint students to committees over the summer. I have been gathering some contacts for faculties so that I am prepared if I need to reach out for recommendations.

Council

I have created the UNBSU Council pages on Facebook and on Teams for everybody to join. I have attempted to add you folks, and I have sent out joining information to everybody via the emails that were provided to us.

I have also reached out in the past week with the opportunity to join the Selections Committee, the information on Selections Committee should additionally be in your emails. If you have any interest in sitting on that committee as one of your required ones for the year, please let me know. You can also reach out with any questions or concerns you may have!

SEMOAC

Lydia and I have continued to attend SEMOAC committee meetings, we have spent the majority of that time discussing plans for SOAR which is happening on the 28th. This year's SOAR is expected to be the biggest yet, and we are so excited to welcome new students to our campus!

SAC

Kordell and I visited the Student Accessibility Centre on Wednesday to give a presentation to their staff about the UNBSU. We discussed our ideas, visions and goals and brainstormed as a group on how we can work together in the coming year. They mentioned some exciting opportunities for our accessibility councillor (when elected) and some opportunities to provide accessibility training to folks who may be interested. Ridhi and I have briefly discussed this training opportunity in regards to the clubs and societies on campus and our council. It would be extremely beneficial for groups who are planning to host events throughout the year as it will ensure there are mindfulness and accessibility considerations when planning is taking place.

Book Buy & Sell

I have begun planning the two annual book buy and sells, and I have set some dates for both semesters. I have also had a meeting with the President and VP Internal of the Engineering Undergraduate Society to discuss having our Book Buy and Sells fall on the same dates and working together to ensure our events align and follow the traditions of the past years.

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

Vice-President Events and Services - Amanda Smith

Hello Friends! It has been a busy couple of weeks with Strat planning and Victoria Day being a holiday. It is so nice that the weather is getting warmer. I don't know about you, but I cannot wait for summer, and it is just around the corner!! Never hesitate to email me with questions, ideas, or suggestions:

services@unbsu.ca

Wishing you a lovely day and couple of weeks. 😊

Strategic Planning

The UNBSU executive team had our strategic planning retreat! It was so much fun, and we cannot wait to share our plans for the upcoming academic year and future. There were a lot of sessions, which included a bonding session, setting boundaries, and recognizing burnout. We reviewed the previous year's Student Feedback and this year's Student Feedback. We will be finalizing this year's strategic plan over the next couple of weeks, so stay tuned!

Food

Hamper Food Box program has been paused until August. I have begun researching initiatives and alternatives for the program. It is becoming unsustainable and requiring a lot of resources from us. At the rate the program is growing we are running out of space in the Think Tank and fridge space for certain items. Kordell and I met with the Director of Greener Village, and it was a positive conversation. Regardless we will be working with Greener Village and maintaining that relationship. April at Mental Health Services has indicated she may have some people who will be able to help us make the UNB Community Food Bank a possibility. Additionally, I met someone at the Encaenia dinner who thinks they know people who are able to help us as well to make the Food Bank a reality.

I have also had the website updated for students who are looking for their box and the contact information for Greener Village if they are still in need.

Fresh Food Bag program - is still going and orders close June 2nd. If you are interested in ordering 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!

Community Garden – We have updated the website indicating plots are unavailable this summer since the building attached to the garden is being demolished as well as the garden.

The breakfast Program – I have an appointment next week with Breakfast Program Canada to discuss our breakfast program and get advice and see if there is a possibility for collaboration.

SafeRide

An appointment has been booked for the Subaru SafeRide vehicle to get the winter tires changed to summer tires. We are also working on ways to employ someone who is available to pick up people with our accessibility SafeRide vehicle as we cannot have someone available on call for those who need this vehicle.

Health & Dental

We updated the website with the PDF explaining what our benefits include and updated the opt out dates, which are:

Fall start students: September 23rd, 2022

Winter start students: January 27th, 2023

We are also looking into an alternative for the SAP program since it wasn't utilized as much as we would have wished, and in relation to the price we paid.

Bike Co-op

I had a lot of difficulties ordering the bikes that were recommended by my predecessor. Eventually, I went downtown, and price-checked Radical Edge and Savages but their bike pricing started at 800\$. Afterward, I checked out Canadian Tire, and they recommended I go to Cleves. It turns out Cleves does not sell bikes. We ended up ordering bikes from Sports Chek and saved a significant amount of money. We had to order one in and have all three bikes built. I will be getting them on Monday. I will be meeting with Ben Law Monday from uRec to discuss launching the program. Ideally, I would like for us to have a BBQ event and have the bikes there. Ben and I will also take the bikes down to the Beaverbrook Gym where the bikes will be stored.

Agenda

I completed the sponsorship package for our Agenda and have a plan for next week to approach multiple places at UNB and off campus businesses who may be interested in sponsoring it. I will be working with our Orientation chairs and helping them collect sponsors for Orientation as well.

Odds & Ends

- Rose and I met with Matt Maclean and April with Mental Health services to discuss their future and what came of the roundtable previously. April and I scheduled a second meeting with Karen to discuss how UNBSU can collaborate in adding more MH services for students
- I completed the Naloxone training
- Rose, Kordell, and I had a virtual meeting with Jenica Atwin on Friday
- Tomorrow is S.O.A.R. and I will be a panelist answering questions about our Health and Dental Benefits.
- I attended the Encaenia Dinner with the other executives.
- I have planned a meeting with Rose and Jill to discuss how we can make MH resources more accessible.
- I attended our monthly Leadership meeting with the SU executives and UNB Student Services. I share our sponsorship package for the agenda and they have recommendations on who may be interested in sponsoring us.
- I helped Rose and Lydia with verbiage and information on our services for our pamphlet we plan to hand out to students at SOAR, including information about the accessibility SafeRide vehicle. I got them printed and had 3 laminated in case we ran out at the event.
- I responded to emails and inquiries.

Vice-President Research and Policy - Rose Grant

Hello everyone. I hope you are all having a relaxing and productive week. If you have any questions or concerns for me, please feel free to reach out through my email at policy@unbsu.ca.

Strategic Planning:

I attended the strat meeting with the executive team in Saint Andrews. As a team we brainstormed ideas for the strategic plan for the year. Furthermore, we discussed the implementation of the 2026 Action Plan. We spoke about our roles, goals, and boundaries. During the retreat, we discussed our roles further in-depth and areas of overlap and collaboration. We outlined our goals

for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and collaboration with hiring scorecards for unconscious bias training. I expressed interest in being responsible for many of the sustainability and mental health initiatives that the Union plans to take. I pitched my policy event and networking activities that I would like to hold this academic year. During the retreat I was able to recommend ideas based on my meeting I had with the sustainability office to further expand the strategic plan for this year.

Advocacy:

I have made contact with Early Childhood Development to discuss ways in which we can make the campus more inclusive of students who have children. I am attending this meeting with Amanda and will be discussing the potential for a drop-off area for students to go to daycare. To discuss the further potential for areas of collaboration with Fredericton Tourism to set up a “get to know your city,” I had a meeting with Stacey Russell and Adam Grant. I attended a meeting with Debra Ward, the Acting Human Rights Commissioner to discuss Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives on campus. I am currently researching blind hiring initiatives to formulate plans for hiring practices.

I had a meeting with Matt and April from UNB Mental Health to collaborate on mental health initiatives I am passionate about. I decided to get in touch with them as there was much feedback about more mental health services on campus. I also had a meeting with Kordell on policy brainstorming and information so that I can formulate the best-researched policy for the UNBSU.

I also met with Lydia to discuss the UNBxAlumni project we are working on.

Events:

I have helped Lydia and Ridhi with the Asian Heritage Month movie event. Will be attending SOAR with the other executives. I made detailed pamphlets to give out to students for our booth Saturday, May 28th for SOAR. The pamphlets outline services, campus events, and general information on the Student Union that many students outlined as confusing to navigate in student feedback the Union has received. I attended the Encaenia Dinner on May 25th.

Meetings:

Acting as a liaison between all three levels of government, I have a meeting scheduled with Kate Rogers. I met with Jenica Atwin on May 27th alongside Amanda and Kordell. I met with Marc Bragdon and Mattia Fonzo with the UNB third floor Libraries to discuss the kitchen at the UNB Libraries. I am beginning to plan the policy event and networking events further for my role. I also had a meeting with the Menstrual Health Society. I have my first policy

committee meeting with the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce on May 26th.

Contacts:

I reached out to Shades of Change and have an ongoing discussion with them surrounding the ability to receive training for all of the executives. I reached out to do a blanket ceremony along with our executives. I contacted RAVEN to discuss meaningful climate policy. I made contact with the International Student Advising Office to discuss points of collaboration for EDI initiatives and blind hiring practices.

Plans:

I am currently researching CASA committees that I can join to get further involved with the association. I am researching policy gaps that can be addressed through the UNBSU. I am researching further on mental health services implemented by all three levels of government to identify my policy goals for implementation for the year. I have a meeting planned next week with David Emerson, the Special Advisor to the President, Paul Mazerolle. I have a meeting set up with Ridhi, Jillian, and Amanda to discuss our plans for syllabus information. I am currently reading through my drive on how to make policy to begin the steps of creating policy. Furthermore I am researching further about the Fredericton branch First Aid training to plan on potential ways of collaboration so that students can access it further.

Conferences:

I have met to introduce myself to others attending the CASA conference from June 6th to 10th.

Again, do not hesitate to reach out, I would be happy to chat! Have a great week.

Vice-President Communications - Lydia Chong

Can you believe it's already the end of May? It's been a fun first month full of learning the ropes and getting to know the rest of the executive team!

Strategic Planning

We spent Monday-Thursday of last week at our Strategic Planning Retreat where we got to know each other better and lay down the bricks for the upcoming year! During our planning sessions, I explained to the team all of my ideas so far for future including the Campus Calendar, UNBSUxAlumni "Where are they now?", UNBS-YOU, and more!

To follow up with our plan of including more indigenous representation on campus and within the SU, I emailed Jaime Campbell from the Faculty of Kinesiology who has the contact information for two local Indigenous elders who've regularly done welcome circles for their faculty orientation as I thought this would be a good first point of contact for the team.

At our retreat, we also planned out our hiring schedule for the summer so I got a head start on the graphics for that and will be getting those ready to be posted when it's time.

SOAR:

Along with Jillian, I attended our SEM-OAC meeting regarding this upcoming Saturday's SOAR event at the Currie Center. We will be setting up a booth and having all execs present to answer any questions the incoming students may have and will also be having a giveaway! Rose and I, with the help of our wonderful exec team, made an information pamphlet about the UNBSU and will be handing these out during SOAR as well. We also went down to the Currie Center as a group and set up our booth before the big day. We are so excited to speak to all the students!

Orientation

There hasn't been too much movement on the O-Week front quite yet for my role, but everyone in the office is super excited to get a head start on all things orientation soon! In the meanwhile, I had my first meeting with Jhanvi and Kanwar to brainstorm some content ideas and will be giving them a first draft of the logo designs soon!

Website

I took the team's individual headshots and have uploaded them to the website. I also made some edits on some of the services pages and rewording/updating certain details on our services page.

Graduation

This past week was busy for everyone on campus. I was lucky enough to be able to go out and grab some pictures of our graduates and line up along the parade route to clap for them as well! Some of the members of the exec and I also attended the Encaenia dinner and got to know some of the members of UNB's Board of Governors and other important individuals. It was a great

opportunity to expand our connections within UNB and be able to congratulate all of our graduates!

Upcoming

I will be attending the COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities) Conference from June 8-12th to broaden my knowledge on opportunities for student leaders through their education sessions, to exchange ideas by networking with delegates from other schools and associates from across the country, to discover more about the services offered by campus activities suppliers, and more. I will be taking extensive notes at this conference and sharing everything I learn with the team!

That's all from me! Until the next update :)

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

Overview

Hello again from the Orientation Team! These past two weeks were great and eventful as we prepare for SOAR, which is finally going to happen in person after 2 whole years. At the same time, the Orientation Chair has joined the office and started her term in person for the summer on the 16th of May, after working virtually till the 16th. These are the updates we have for you over the past two weeks:

Marketing and Meetings

We had a meeting with Lydia to discuss the logo and social media strategies on how the Orientation events and team marketing will take place. However, we will meet with Lydia again to provide further updates and thoughts about marketing. At the same time, we had a meeting with Kordell to discuss the budget after the VP Finance and Operations has left the office. We also met with Brian from Coastal Graphics and expect to receive a couple of links, a timeline, and a quotation from their side. We also met up with Ridhi to discuss training schedules for the Orientation Leaders and various elements we could add to the pieces of training to make them more personable and diverse in the aspects of inclusivity. We also had our meetings with the Student Engagement Coordinator and have prepared a draft of the Orientation Timeline and Responsibilities and a list for the sponsorship

trackings. We will also have a meeting with Advancement next week to share ideas and receive and discuss a toolkit for entities who already have a cordial relationship with UNB in aspects of sponsorships and funding.

RedShirt Orientation Leaders

We received a total of 132 applications for the RedShirts position. Considering all the applications, we have decided to go ahead with 110 RedShirts. However, we are still required to do the GPA checks and endorser checks as well! But we are extremely happy with the number of people interested in being Orientation leaders this year.

Upcoming Events

SOAR is tomorrow! And the Orientation team is still doing their final touches, we have printed out the Orientation and Shinerama banner and have decided to go ahead and distribute bookmarks to the students who will come out to the SU Orientation table. The bookmarks were designed by the VP Communications. At the same time, the list of volunteers has been finalized and we will all end up wearing the Rise and Shine t-shirts for the day to increase awareness about Shinerama to the incoming students. We are looking forward to finally putting all our plans to fruition.

Shinerama

As for Shinerama, the huge and positive update would be that we finally heard back from Shinerama after our rigorous attempts to reach out to them! As per Shinerama, they will have added UNB to their crowdchange website and provided us with the details and registration links for the Shinerama National Leadership Conference by the start of June. The conference this year will be virtual and held in June, by the second or the start of the third week. We both will attend this conference and will motivate our BlackShirt Leaders to attend the conference as well! But as for now, we can now go ahead and plan on relaunching Shinerama this year over the summer and try our best to raise as much money as we can as a community for the cause of Cystic Fibrosis!