

Executive Report

Prepared for: UNBSU Council 2022/2023

July 22, 2022



**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
STUDENT UNION**

We recognize and respectfully acknowledge that the UNBSU experience takes place on the stolen, unsundered, and unceded traditional lands of Wolastoqiyik.

President – Kordell Walsh

Hi folks! I hope everybody's summer is going well! It's hard to believe that we're already almost at the end of July, I feel like the summer just started!! It has been a super busy couple of weeks since our last update.

Meetings

- Rose and I met with FEECUM, David Emerson, and the NBSA regarding our meeting with Minister Holder about the NB-EI Connect program cancellation
- Rose and I also met with Minister Holder, his deputy Minister, and some other folks within the ministry of Post-Secondary Education, Training, and Labour (PETL). We felt this was a very productive meeting, and it seems like there's some room for collaboration, whether it be on this issue or others - but it was clear that NB-EI Connect as a program is gone. We're still optimistic that there can be alternatives to the program that still help students implemented.
- I had a meeting with CHSR and Becky from the SUB regarding space in the SUB. There were also some discussions about how we can help promote CHSR and the resources it offers to students
- I scheduled interviews for VP Finance and Operations, however I was unable to attend the interviews themselves due to internet access in Quebec
- I met with Jill to build a plan around scheduling the emergency council meeting and transition sessions
- I met with Danielle and Jacquie from Sustainability to discuss the Student Sustainability Fund (SSF). The SSF is a Student Union funded project, where we take \$1 of every student's Union fees and place them in a fund that students as well as clubs and societies can access to fund sustainability based things (i.e. as small as buying reusable cutlery for a society so they don't continue buying disposable cutlery; or as big as an aquaculture program that they're beginning down at RC). Last year there were some big changes made to the fund that made it more

accessible - and we saw a higher use out of it. The Sustainability office was interested talking about collaborations on promotions primarily, as well as reporting on the Fund's usage, which would be helpful for both of us in promoting sustainability within the university

- I had a meeting with a club regarding an event they are looking to host
- I had a meeting with a student interested in applying for VP Communications but was looking for some more information
- I met with Orientation and Student Services twice where we looked through the planned schedule for orientation week and discussed some last minute adjustments to the schedule
- Lydia, Rose, Jill, Ridhi and I went to Shinerama trivia this week at the grad house! It was lots of fun, and was a great test run with orientation before they begin running public sessions
- I had a meeting with Alanda Banks from GNB regarding promotions of Student Financial Aid, and they will be following up with the entire executive team later - and were interested in possibly bringing forth ideas or a presentation to council around promotions during the year

Travel/CASA

Last week, I spent three days in Quebec for CASA Board retreat! We had sessions to learn more about the history of CASA and the student movement, about our duties as members of the board, and spent a lot of time planning our priorities for the year! It was an extremely productive couple of days, and was a nice change of pace. We ended the conference with a CASA Board meeting, the first time CASA has held an in-person board meeting in a few years, which was really exciting!

Additionally, I spent about a day working on my Board Action Plan for CASA, as well as our committee action plan for the National Advocacy Committee (NAC). CASA's Government and Stakeholder Relations Officer has left CASA, so I also had a meeting with the Executive Director regarding that, how to continue on with CASA's advocacy work, and NAC as a committee.

Odds and Ends

Another somewhat big task I have been working on is preparing a transition for the incoming VP Finance and Operations. I've been working to ensure they're prepared to hit the ground running and up-to-date on as many projects as needed. I am also preparing for the VP Communications transition, even though it is a while away - it's much easier to build both out at once than to repeat my efforts in a couple of weeks.

I am also preparing for a few weeks in advanced, as the week of August 8-12 I will be away in Calgary for CASA with Rose, and the following week I am

planning to take vacation, so I'm trying to get ahead of some projects to make sure I am able to take a break while I am away.

Vice President Student Wellness - Ridhi Sharma

Happy July, everyone! Hope you all are well and enjoying the sun! Things have been quite busy on our end.

STUSU and UNBSU Weeks Collaboration

I met with STUSU VP Student Life to discuss the student wellness weeks and collaboration on events. They were able to provide insights and feedback from the past year's Student-Run Business Fair event and explained the logistics. We will be posting another form soon to gather more businesses from both Universities. We are also looking into the prospect of it being a two-day event, where one day would be in SUB and the other JDH. However, the logistics details need to be ironed out. I discussed the event logistics briefly with Matt Theriault and we will be meeting to discuss this further once Becky returns from vacation.

Anahi was also interested in initiating Sex Week at STU, so we will be meeting closer to the end of the term to discuss events and collaboration between the Student Unions.

Collaboration with HIL

Mattia Fonzo was keen on collaborating and wished for her team to be more involved in our events at the library. We discussed event ideas and spaces on the 3rd floor. We discussed the potential of doing a DIY scrunchie workshop and Zine workshop for Sustainability Week in the Fabrication Lab. We also talked about the Innovation Hub as a great spot for movie nights for smaller groups. Mattia also recommended the event space for guest speakers for our events which can host 50 students. We talked about Pomodoro sessions and study halls for the year. I met with Jill later to discuss the idea for a cafe on plagiarism in collaboration with the Writing Center. If you have any ideas for events at the library, I would love to have your feedback!

EDI training and Experiential Modules

I met with Heidi Harding from the Experiential Office to discuss the program they have been working on as part of their EDI planning. Their team has been working on the UNB Skills Plus program which will provide students with access to a wide range of modules that help prepare them better for the workforce. These modules are usually around an hour long and students will receive certificates at the end which will aid them when they apply for

employment opportunities. I attended the advisory committee meeting as well where a brief overview of the SharePoint modules was given to the staff from different offices on campus. I am one of the student testers and so I have been going through the modules.

Their team is looking for student testers to give feedback on the modules. So, if you are interested then please email Heidi Harding at hhardin1@unb.ca and she will be able to give you access to the modules.

Sustainability Week

The sustainability office shared their overall plan of events for the month and recommended that we also disperse our week events across the month. However, after discussion with the team, I realized we should follow the prior years' trend of hosting Sustainability events in the first week of October. So, we have a plan for the week; however, I am waiting for our Wellness Coordinator to finalize things. We are planning to have a beeswax workshop, Pot and Plant, DIY scrunchie workshop, Cellar Pub trivia, wellness workshop, and a giveaway. I would love to hear your thoughts on these and any ideas for potential events!

Campus Culture Campaign

I met with Matthew Maclean to discuss the monthly themes for their office and how we can support students. Matt was also interested in meeting the team for feedback on their social media platforms so that they can reach more students. We discussed some events for wellness week and I gave feedback on the Positive Mental Health Strategy. We also further discussed the ideas for panels and group-focused forums. We agreed that the events should be backed up by evidence-based interventions so I have been researching more. I also suggested the idea of having a late Summer/early Fall volunteer group for Positive Mental Health Strategy as this will allow students to easily volunteer before the start of the year and provide feedback on the work done so far.

Collaboration with ISAO

I met with Hillary Nguyen from the ISAO to discuss event ideas for Cultural Week and potential collaboration for Winter International Student Orientation as it aligns well with Cultural Week. Some of the ideas were a cultural cash workshop during Finance Week, Intercultural Dating for Sex Week, a toolkit for incoming students, etc. We discussed the need for further representation of queer international students in 203 and potential event that

gives an opportunity to current students to connect with international student alumni.

Odds and Ends

- I reached out to Sofia Mehlitz from 203 to discuss our collaboration for Fredericton Pride Parade.
- I attended the Shine Trivia with the team to support our Orientation folks.
- I attended a virtual conference where I engaged in Intersectional Activism, Storytelling and Breaking Barriers, Menstrual Hygiene and Sustainability.
- I have a meeting with Sodexo staff and the Sustainability Office.

Thank you so much for reading my update! Hope you have an amazing week, folks! If you have any questions or suggestions, I would love to hear from you at wellness@unbsu.ca

I look forward to working with you all!

Vice President Academic – Jillian Carson

Hi folks, I hope all is wonderful with each of you and I hope you have been staying hydrated in this week's extremely warm weather! The past two weeks appear like they were not very busy, but between interviews last week and organizing Council this week - I have felt the busyness!

Bits and Pieces

- As per the bylaws, when VPFO is absent their hiring responsibilities fall on to the VP Academic. Due to this I spent last week organizing interviews for the TownHouse Coordinator - I recruited Lydia to attend these interviews with me. This made a lot of sense since we both have an experience with the position and are both passionate about seeing TownHouse excel. I also organized and held the Clubs and Societies Coordinator interviews - Rose assisted me with these interviews, which I greatly appreciated. After the interviews for both positions we spent time deliberating how they went and who would be best for the roles.

For the TownHouse Coordinator position we have hired Abby Sensabaugh who brought some wonderful and exciting ideas to her interview, and we decided that it would be best to re-open the hiring for Clubs and Societies Coordinator in a few weeks with the hopes that we will have more applicants.

- I additionally sat on all of the interviews for the position of VPFO and ensured all of our interview notes were thorough and complete.
- I spent time this week with Richard Spacek from the Writing Centre, we recorded new videos for UNBetween for incoming students.
- I have also reached out to Sara Rothman to discuss organizing cards to be given to new students at commencement this year, on behalf of the SU. Sara said we will discuss this further in our Monday meeting on organizing commencement.
- Rose and I attended a meeting with the City of Fredericton to discuss events for Orientation week that are hosted by the City and to appoint Kordell to the Affordable Housing Strategy Committee.
- Lydia and I also attended a SEMOAC meeting this week.

Libraries

Recently Ridhi shared some information with me that she got from a meeting with Mattia, the Manager of the Research Commons at the HIL. From her meeting there was a mention of an idea for us to collaborate with the Writing Centre, this is something I am interested in chatting with Mattia more on and will be reaching out to her to do!

Cost of Education Campaign

With all that has been going on the past two weeks, and with Kordell being away for CASA we have not been able to discuss this yet. We are hoping to meet on this again next week.

Senate

I have continued to work on committee appointments, I have filled the seats on the SDC and I am waiting to hear back from the Grad Student Association to have them recommend graduate students who are interested in serving on committees. Students have been filling out the form on our website thanks to the information on it that both Kordell and Lydia shared, I am really excited to be getting responses of interest from students! I have also been nominated to sit on a Senate Review Committee and I am just currently

waiting for the vote to be passed to be officially appointed. I have been told this committee will take up a significant amount of time once it sits.

Council

This past week has been quite busy for me in regards to my council responsibilities. Kordell and I have been having daily conversations on preparing for the emergency meeting and updating what needs to be done for the meeting and to ensure councilors are prepared. I have offered multiple transition sessions this past week to ensure councilors are transitioned and introduced Robert's Rules of Order to council members.

Frankly, I am fairly disappointed with the lack of responses and engagement from Council members this week. We are extremely supportive of you folks and completely understand that you likely have other commitments at this time, especially with everything happening currently on such short time lines. However, communication with me is greatly appreciated - just so I know what's going on with you folks and that enables me to learn how I can best support you. I have also sent out the [Committee Selection Form](#) and it is missing many responses, please fill this out ASAP so that we are sure our committees are being filled and so that I can try my best to have each of you serve on the committees that interest you most.

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

Vice-President Finance & Operations - VACANT

Vice-President Events and Services - Amanda Smith

Hii, council members!

Last week was not my most productive week due to my gum graft surgery. I was out all of Tuesday but responded to a few emails that day.

Here is my bi-weekly update for you.

Food

I connected with Development and Donor Relations, and they helped me with how to put together a proposal and provided me with a couple templates. The data I have been collecting on food insecurity on our campus, campuses across Canada and different types of initiatives that combat food

insecurity with university students is slowly coming together in my case for support for UNB and having a service to address food insecurity on campus.

Fresh Food Bag program – I picked up the Fresh Food bags. Orders are open again: <https://unbsu.typeform.com/to/JDCUIF> for \$17, or you can pay cash at the Welcome Centre for \$15!

Bike Co-op

I met with Sustainability about our bike program, and I also met with Jodie from Acadia U about their bike share program. We had a follow up meeting this week with uRec, our other partner with the bike co-op and checked out the location for storage. We are planning to do the Bike Co-op launch on August 14th. I also used my connections at the local radio station, and they are going to send a cruiser person to our event that will also be a fundraiser for Shinerama.

Agenda

I updated the Agenda drive folder with new ads. We received ANBL's ad. The girls and I did an agenda look through.

Events

I submitted Molly's timesheet for payroll. Her and I met to discuss her plans for the kickoff concert. Molly, Nick and I had a meeting to discuss talent, location and other stuff. I connected with Pat at the Cellar to meet with him about bartending for the event and questions for Orientation about collecting bottles.

Molly and I met to debrief about how we can support the Men's Rugby club in an event they're organizing.

SLIC

Sean, our Sr. SLIC Coordinator, is helping us recruit for the Jr. SLIC Coordinator.

Odds & Ends

- I conducted VPFO interviews with Jill and Rose. I reviewed applications for VPFO and submitted my feedback
- I met with Matt Maclean to discuss the Peer Support program again.

- I met with CHSR and we are giving them a free ad space and him and I will be meeting again this week so I can aid them with getting advertising for their radio station. I had a second meeting with CHSR to discuss on ways to increase their reach and who to connect with.
- Rose and I met with SVN B about policy stuff
- Kordell and I met to discuss upcoming events and plans
- I met with the executive team to plan for VPFO and the counsel meeting we are having this evening and how we plan to move forward
- We have our weekly meeting with our executive updates.

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. Have a great day and stay cool!

The past two weeks have consisted of much policy work and meetings with stakeholders surrounding EI-Connect and

Policy:

I got elected Vice Chair for the Federal Policy Committee for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

I took part in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion meeting with CASA.

I finished my second drafted policy on the acceleration of foreign credential recognition. I continued to edit the first drafted policy on the operation grant.

I continued to work on mental health research which I am hoping to have completed soon. If anyone would like to know more or give suggestions, I would love to hear!

Meetings:

- I took part in a meeting to discuss the cancellation of EI-Connect with Kordell with Minister Holder from the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour and the Deputy Minister, Daniel Mills. The meeting was productive and we presented a brief which I created on the fixed student contribution.

- We discussed the fixed student contribution which you can check out here! <https://www.unbsu.ca/news/nb-ei-connect-meeting>
- I took part in a meeting with Féecum to discuss the cancellation of EI-Connect alongside Kordell.
- I had a meeting with the Sustainability Office at UNB to discuss climate change policy in New Brunswick.
- I took part in the Post-Secondary Relations Committee with the City of Fredericton.
- I had a meeting with Jenica Atwin to discuss plans for a town hall meeting with her youth council and UNBSU in early October.
- I had a meeting with David Emerson and Kordell to discuss EI-Connect.
- I took part in the Emergency Council meeting on Friday at 7 and took part in an executive meeting ahead of it.
- I took part in looking at the UNBSU agenda look-through meeting with the team which is looking great!
- I took part in the ONB Atlantic Immigration Program Information Session for New Brunswick.
- I took part in a meeting with Hillary from the ISAO to discuss policy that would best help international students.
- I had a meeting with SVNB to discuss policy for New Brunswick and Fredericton alongside Amanda.
- I created a typeform for international students to gain more knowledge about the best policy the UNBSU could create to aid international students at the post-secondary level in New Brunswick. Here is the typeform if you would like to fill it out!
<https://unbsu.typeform.com/to/PoEbE7fZ>

Hiring:

I took part in hiring for Vice President Finance and Operations alongside Amanda and Jill. I also took part in hiring for Clubs and Societies Coordinator with Jill.

We created briefs from these meetings and have de-briefs with the team.

Odds and Ends:

- I took part in shinerama trivia with all of the executive team and Kanwar and Jhanvi on Thursday which was amazing. Shout out to them for hosting!

- Lydia and I discussed plans for the advocacy ad for the agenda this year.
- The team and I went to get our boosters from the campus pharmacy. They are free and do walk-ins! Check out their facebook to learn more.
- I am making a list of attendees at the moment and finalizing some odds and ends for the Jenica Atwin town hall.
- I finalized the date for the policy forum for my interdisciplinary policy series.

All the best and have a great week.

Vice-President Communications - Lydia Chong

Hi all! As per Kordell's last email, I regret to inform you that I will be resigning from my position as the VP Communications for the UNB Student Union.

I have been accepted into my dream field of study and after much deliberation, I have decided to commit to the decision to attend the University of Dalhousie in Halifax, Nova Scotia as full-time Master's student in the fall. As a result, I will no longer be able to fulfill my duties as VP Communications. My last working day will be on August 26, 2022, which allows plenty of time for me to finish ongoing projects and ensure a smooth transition of the incoming VP Communications.

Deciding to resign from this role and step away from the UNBSU has been a tough decision for me, accompanied by feelings both of excitement for the future and sadness that I won't be working with the SU and be on campus every day. I want to express my deepest gratitude to you, council, and my exec team for a wonderful experience thus far being on the UNBSU as VP Communications. I have been lucky to be a part of the SU since 2019 and the friends, community, and supports I've made over these past three years have truly been exceptional. Being an exec member has always been an aspiration of mine, and to leave this role is bittersweet.

Until my last day, I am committed to work as I have been until the 26th of August, in the best interests of the UNB Student Union and council.

Agenda:

Again, the vast majority of my time had been spent finalizing the agenda. Things are finally coming to an end and we will be sending the final version off today (Friday the 22nd) to the printing company!!

Strat Plan:

We finalized the Strat plan and it has been uploaded onto the [website](#). Also updated the corkboard in the hallway with the updated plan and some resources for students passing by.

Council Committees:

I made a graphic for Jillian for a call out for ordinary students to sit on a committee.

UG International Students:

I'm working with Rose to make a graphic for her Typeform to inform a new policy regarding undergraduate International students at UNBF.

Meeting with Minister Holder:

Last week, we put out a statement regarding Kordell and Rose's meeting with Trevor Holder. It is now live on our website and was published to our social media platforms.

TownHouse:

Jill and I conducted the TH interviews as we were both previously involved with TH as execs. We were impressed by the candidates and made the decision wasn't easy to pick. Congratulations to Abby Sensabaugh for being our next TH coordinator! We are excited to see her excel in this role :)

Hiring:

I am continuing to promote our open positions on our social media platforms - please share if you can, we'd love to spread the word out as much as we can!

Campus Events/SET:

I am working with Molly, our DCE, for promotions for our new campus events instagram (@unbsuevents). Go give it a follow! We are going to promote SET early next week to get more applications in before the deadline.

Other:

- Worked on poster design for tri-folds
- Ordered insurance cards for bus passes/etc.
- Put out the monthly newsletter
- Attended SEMOAC

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

Overview

Hello everyone, I hope everyone is doing well! This week the Orientation team made great progress and collaborations in terms of events. A great chunk of the schedule was worked on and finalized. Details of the past 2 weeks are as follows:

Marketing

In terms of marketing, all of the BlackShirt Orientation Leaders have been introduced on our social media pages and at the same time, an introduction post to Shinerama and Cystic Fibrosis Canada was made and posted.

Also, the marketing plan for Orientation and Shinerama are still in their developing stages. Future events for Shinerama will be posted on social media a week or 2 prior to the events planned for the summer.

Meetings

Over the past 2 weeks, some of the major meetings we had were:

- meeting Matt and Becky about booking the spaces for the SUB during Orientation Week and before Orientation Week for O-Kits.
- We also had meetings with RLC Steve from Residence Life to plan events and forming timelines for events and as to how they fit with Residence events and Meal Hall hours.
- We also met up with Campus Patrol about having security and number of personnel at events, and what that cost will be
- We also had meetings with Tim from Sodexo to finalize at which events we required food and ask about food waivers as well
- Additionally, we met with Venus Envy Halifax to talk about sponsorship opportunities and the sex trivia event during O-Week.
- Furthermore, we had meetings with Brian from Coastal Graphics to put in the orders for O-Kits and Merch

- the Vice-Chair met up with the campaign advisor from Shinerama and showed them the Shine Event Plan. Additionally, the event plan and summer plan for Shinerama was also shared with the Student Engagement Coordinator, Miriam and Director of Academic Success, Sara.
- The Orientation team also met with Kate Morrison from the REDS to book spaces at the Currie Centre for Orientation events.
- The team also met with Brian from IT regarding opt-in plans for students during Orientation Week.
- We also met with Matt Maclean about the mental health event during Orientation Week, and started making a rough plan for it.

Merchandise

As mentioned earlier, we put in orders for the Merch and 1450 Orientation Kits, the final order has been put in and we should receive our O-Kit Items by Mid-August. At the same time, we put in the orders for the merch for RedShirts and BlackShirts. However, for the Orientation Leaders t-shirts and Shine t-shirts we have put in the order and all proofs have been checked. However, we still need to sort out sponsorships for the merchandise.

Schedule

The Orientation team has developed and finalized a schedule based on the schedules of offices across UNB that will take part in O-Week and has also named all the events, the final/latest schedule has been sent out to Marketing. All we await is the green signal from Marketing about the event names and then we can head to Risk Management with the event plans.

Sponsorships

In terms of sponsorships, the only addition we have had to our sponsorship list is Harvest Festival, who have agreed to provide us 10 passes for the Harvest Festival, which we plan to use at events as prizes! Our sponsorship package was also sent to CHSR and also to Cody from Gradhouse. Lastly, we have followed up with Irving Oil about the sponsorship and we also have reached out to the Bookstore and wait for a response from the UNB Alumni.

RedShirt Orientation Leaders

We have finalized our Redshirts and have added them to the RedShirts 2022 Teams channel and Facebook Group. The first step on our agenda is to start

interacting with Redshirts through the Social Media pages. However, a few of the Redshirts were not added to the groups due to a variety of reasons. However, the pod leaders of those Redshirts will reach out to them via email.

Blackshirt Orientation Leaders

The Orientation Leaders are being kept up to date daily about the events and asked for further idea.

Shinerama and upcoming events

The Orientation team had their first in-person event for Shinerama on the 21st of July at the Gradhouse from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM, the event was a 90s trivia which was open to only the faculty, staff, and the Student Union Executives. However, only the SU executive members were able to attend, and the team was able to raise \$95 in total.

A summer plan for events has been set-up and we will begin marketing those about a week prior to the events. The event plan for Shine Day has been made and showed to the Campaign Advisors and Regional Directors at Cystic Fibrosis Canada and also to Sara and Miriam.

The City of Fredericton has been contacted about door-to-door canvassing during Shine Day on September 10th and permission to take part at the Saturday Market that day and have a Shinerama booth at the Downtown BBQ event.

We have also contacted local businesses to collaborate with events and will reach out to various businesses for sponsorships or events over the month of August.