

## **Executive Report**

**Prepared for: UNBSU Council 2022/2023**

June 26, 2022



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

### **President – Kordell Walsh**

I hope everybody has been having a great summer! It's impossible to believe we're near the end of June already! The summer (and year) has flown by so fast! Just for transparency, since our last report, I had three vacation days: June 13, 14, and 15. I'm from just outside of Ottawa, so I tagged on some vacation at the end of CASA's Conference to visit family and take a much needed break. So if my report feels a bit shorter than typical, that hopefully explains it!

### **Conference**

Since the last update, I attended Maritime Student Congress in Wolfville, NS at Acadia University for 3 days! Maritime Student Congress brings student unions together from Nova Scotia, PEI, and New Brunswick to develop skills, discuss issues facing students/student associations unique to or especially prevalent in the Maritimes, and discuss approaches to those issues through Maritime lenses. For example, often in the Maritimes governments "follow" each other; meaning if a policy is implemented in one province, within a few years it often finds its way into the other two. So having the opportunity to discuss issues, solutions, and approaches with other provinces is really valuable!

### **Meetings**

Since the last update, I've had the following meetings:

- SS&P three times
- A meeting with Amanda to discuss Campus Events' budget for the year
- A meeting with Kanwar, Jhanvi, Sara Rothman, and Miriam Illman-White (Both from Student Services) to discuss orientation planning
- Devin Debly, the President of UNBSRC, came up to Fredericton for an afternoon. We chatted about each other's priorities for the year, points of collaboration, and in general how we can improve communication between the SRC and SU

- A meeting with the Career Development and Employment Center about career fairs, what works, what needs to change, and what employers can do to appeal to students
- A meeting with the Menstrual Health Society co-Chairs Kate Palmer (also our Women's Rep on council!) and Caroline Stephen regarding sustainability of their initiative to bring free menstrual products to campus. They acquired funding for 15 menstrual product dispensers across campus, and had them installed already! However, now they are struggling with sustainable funding for the products themselves! I shared with them funding options within the SU; and we discussed how the SU can support in advocating for sustainable, long-term funding from the University
- I, along with the Executives, met with Student Services' Leadership team

### **NB-EI Connect**

This is a big issue. For those that do not know, the very simplified version of this is that the NB-EI Connect was a program that allowed New Brunswick students who were studying full-time to access full-time Employment Insurance benefits. In order to access the program, you needed to qualify for regular EI benefits. Roughly 7,000 New Brunswick students used this program. The program was cut, effective immediately, on June 23rd; as it did not align with the Federal Government's intended eligibility criteria for EI benefits; and did not align with the provincial government's goals of supporting employers to fill vacancies within the job market. It was done with a lack of consultation with students, and a lack of notice. Students who had regularly used the program, and planned to continue using the program in the school year were given roughly 2 months to search for the financial resources and aid to support them through the year.

The UNBSU released an anonymous survey [here](#) that we would love you folks to fill out or share with peers to get feedback on the topic. The more feedback we receive, the better! Additionally, we co-signed an open letter with FÉÉCUM regarding the decision, and our request for a meeting with Minister Holder to discuss the issue and identify solutions. The NBSA (and each member), as well as NBCC Student Unions were invited to co-sign, but the NBSA opted to submit their own press release. There has been significant interest in collaborations between us and the UNBSRC for Saint John on this topic; and we will be discussing this further this week with the STU Students Union (STUSU).

### **Other Items**

- Hiring for VP Finance and Operations is open! Please share with friends
  - we have Instagram and Facebook posts that you can share, or direct

folks to [unbsu.ca/jobs/](https://unbsu.ca/jobs/)! We are also hiring for Townhouse Coordinator and Clubs and Societies Coordinator, so please share!!

- I've been doing a lot of prep for upcoming meetings that I will be reporting on in upcoming reports
- In addition to STUSU and UNBSRC, I'm working on strengthening relationships with NBCC and FÉÉCUM

### **Vice President Student Wellness - Ridhi Sharma**

Happy last week of June, folks! It's hard to believe how quickly the summer is passing by. Hope you all are relaxing and rejuvenating. The past two weeks have been bustling and I am thrilled to share what I have been doing.

### **Student-Run Businesses Fair**

I was able to fix the technical issues with the form, and Lydia had re-posted them with an extended deadline of 24th June. I have received five responses, but we are looking for more so if you know anyone with a business, kindly let me know! I had reached out to them to seek their graphics and logo for the promotion in agenda. I have been in touch with STUSU VP Student Life, and I have a meeting with her on Monday to discuss further collaboration.

### **Campus Culture Campaign**

Amanda and I met with Hilary Swan, Campus Sexual Assault Support Advocate (CSASA), to discuss the campus culture campaign. We had spoken about various initiatives that their office has been working on and how we can collaborate on ongoing and new initiatives. We also discussed trainings like bystander intervention, trauma-informed workplace, peer-to-peer sexual violence prevention, etc. They also told us about a self-advocacy toolkit discussing hookup and rape culture, and healthy relationships. The necessity of a campus-wide survey was emphasized. We also spoke about the Sexual Assault Policy, Action Plan, and reporting system.

Amanda and I also attended a panel on "Supporting Survivors: Resource and Legal Support in Atlantic Canada" where we engaged in discussions about the challenges faced by the survivors when navigating through the legal systems and how we can utilize the trauma-informed approach. We were informed that SVNBS has been working with the law enforcement to provide them trauma-informed training.

Amanda and I had briefly spoken to Nadine Violet regarding allyship training and where our offices can collaborate to meet student's needs.

Jillian and I attended a workshop by Aisle, a company advocating for menstrual equity and sustainability. We were provided with the Planet-Positive Periods toolkit which served as a great resource to learn about the environmental impact of the menstrual products. They not only focused on the sustainability aspect but also emphasized post-secondary institutions' ability to raise awareness and empower the menstruating population. Jillian and I also met with the interns from Sustainability Office and the Menstrual Health Society to relay the information and seek their interest in this movement.

### **Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigeneity**

Rose and I met with Debra Ward from the Human Rights and Positive Environment Office (HRPEO) to introduce ourselves and discuss collaboration this year. Some of the topics that we discussed were the need for EDI-based practices on campus, increased need for mental-health and in-person peer support services, training like conflict resolution, cultural competency, etc.

I met with Hayden Richardson from HRPEO to discuss the progress on various EDI training, and they connected me with Sarah King and Heidi Harding from Experiential Office. We spoke about EDI practices in hiring and how we can further the work on scorecards. They provided feedback on the potential EDII coordinator position.

I met with the Nuci Putawasuwin (Indigenous Student Councillor on council!), Kianna, to discuss their ideas for cultural week and events such as beading, Medicine Walk, moccasin making, multi-culture showcase, gift-giving practices, land acknowledgment page, etc.

I watched the anti-racism panel discussion, part of the Cultural Expressions Festival. It was quite valuable to see the different viewpoints and experiences of four panelists. I also attended a bystander intervention workshop and discussion over Gender Based Violence in Canada, hosted by the Canadian Women's Foundation.

I also met with Rebecca Ward from the Student Accessibility Center to discuss challenges faced by students, our collaboration, and training. I was able to set up a date for Accessibility training in July.

### **Finance Week**

I met with Shelley Clayton from the Financial Aid Office to discuss topics for events throughout Finance week. We are thinking of doing a lunch and

learn series in the week with different platforms. Also discussed resources (external grants and scholarships) available for domestic and international students. I was also informed they are working on a website page dedicated to indigenous student funding and resources. We decided to meet with Hillary Nguyen in July to further discuss the needs of international students. If you have any ideas, then I would love to hear from you!

## **Wellness Week**

I spoke with the prior Wellness Coordinator, Savannah Moore, who shared the logistics for last year's events (what went well and had good outreach vs things to be improved). We discussed bringing back events like the Cellar bingo, paint n' pot, chill room, dog therapy room, and free skate n' hot cocoa.

I am open to suggestions, so if you would like to help with brainstorming or just wish to talk about these ideas, feel free to reach out.

## **Student Features and Pride Week**

As mentioned previously, I have been meeting with volunteers to discuss themes for their features. We are grateful for the volunteers' time invested in this initiative and looking forward to it.

I also met with Sofia Mehlitz, the Co-chair of 203, to brainstorm and discuss the ideas for events, such as bringing back the drag bingo, GSD training, beginner drag show makeup workshop, panel ideas, and gender-affirming clothing swap.

## **Odds and Ends**

- I researched EDII practices like indigenous student funding, equity in the workplace, and Ramadan hamper boxes, and have consultations with the respective individuals.
- I had reached out to a few students and a UNB professor regarding celebrations of Black History Month to discuss ideas for the panel. I am also planning an open mic night and working on a poster campaign for the month.
- I also am in discussions with the Sustainability Office about the video campaign idea to promote SDGs on campus.
- I also watched the workshop on Campus Gender Based Violence Complaints by Courage to Act.
- The executive team met with Student Services to share updates and discuss plan of action for the coming month.

Thank you so much for reading my update! Have a fantabulous week, folks! If you have any questions or suggestions, I would love to hear from you at [wellness@unbsu.ca](mailto:wellness@unbsu.ca)

I look forward to working with you all!

### **Vice President Academic – Jillian Carson**

Hi Council!! I hope you've had a wonderful two weeks since our last update, as I mentioned before I was planning to take some vacation time. I took two days, it was nice to spend some time with my family! Your exec team has been here in the offices, continuing to prep for the exciting year that we have ahead of us.

#### **Bits and Pieces**

As mentioned previously, Lydia and I had both set our eyes on the ThinkTank. Respectfully, due to no fault of anybody, it was a disaster. We are so excited to have put some straight time into this week and see that it is clean and extremely usable! We all spent some time working in it yesterday, and I can't wait to see us use it more! We are also hoping to see councilors and clubs and societies use the space when the fall arrives.

Lydia and I have also spent a significant amount of time working on TownHouse plans, the hiring post for a coordinator has been posted and we are excited to see that role get filled. We have been recording our ideas and guidance and tips that we have to hand over to the incoming coordinator. On Friday and earlier this week we also had the opportunity to tour some prospective students through the SUB and share our resources and services with current students. It was really nice to meet some new folks and get to know them. I am excited to do more of that in September as campus fills up!

Ridhi and I both attended a Planet Positive Periods workshop last week. We both found out about the event and I stepped in to cover the first half of the workshop with Madeleine, the owner of Aisle. Aisle is a Canadian company that creates sustainable, reusable, period products! The workshop was wonderful, and we have shared this resource with the Menstrual Health Society as well as the UNB Sustainability students. I have also been in contact

with Madeleine on behalf of the SU to receive a mini case study on what the usage of reusable and sustainable period products may look like at UNB. With the workshop we also discussed the negative stigma associated with menstrual health and how we can work to diminish that stigma.

I also have a meeting with Mike Nason from the library to discuss OER's and the Exam Bank that is far out of date for our students. I have also spoken to Lesley Balcom, the Dean of Libraries and I will be meeting with her in the next week or so.

In the last update I mentioned that I had contacted Van Lantz's office to discuss and ensure that there is student representation on the policy committee to discuss accessibility, I have yet to hear back on this. I will follow up soon as I know this is a conversation that folks on campus are getting ready to have, and we believe it is extremely significant to have students involved in these conversations as a policy is created.

I had also mentioned that I reached out to ResLife to get contacts for potential agenda promotions. I received a response to my email from before and I will be booking a meeting with the folks at ResLife to discuss the house committee training, with hopes that if there is training planned for the Fall that our TownHouse executive team can participate.

### **Senate**

I have been slowly working at filling the spots needed for students on Senate committees and the committees needed for appointing Deans. I am planning to dedicate much of my time next week to this. I have been reaching out to some societies through social media to discuss potential student reps in their respective faculties.

### **Council**

Kordell and I had a meeting to finalize dates for Council this year, and to discuss the committees within the SU. I am looking forward to soon sending you folks the committee selection form and getting our committees all sorted out! I also had the opportunity to chat with one of our wonderful Councilors last week to discuss an idea for a proposal to council in the Fall - it was exciting to already see some of you working away!

\*I also ask that if you are looking to discuss potential councilor projects, or ideas please let me know. If you are reaching out to another executive because you think it fits more under their portfolio, that is more than okay! Just please let me know, or CC me on the email so that I have an idea of what you are up to. This will make our check ins and such easier in the Fall, just so I am up to speed on what is happening and I can do my best to support you.

## **SEMOAC**

I attended a SEMOAC meeting. We had a presentation from Matt Maclean, the Mental Health Strategist for UNB. It was a great presentation that highlighted the areas we can be focusing on at UNB in regards to supporting our students' Mental Health.

**As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or needs please feel free to reach out to me at [academic@unbsu.ca](mailto:academic@unbsu.ca) - I hope you have a wonderful week, and get to enjoy the predicted sunshine!**

## **Vice-President Finance & Operations - VACANT**

### **Vice-President Events and Services - Amanda Smith**

Hello lovely council members! TGIF right? Mind you I will be working all weekend at the Pub, but I still love Fridays! I encourage you to reach out to me by email with questions, ideas, or suggestions: [services@unbsu.ca](mailto:services@unbsu.ca)  
Wishing you a beautiful week and a couple of weeks wherever you are. 😊

## **Food**

Fresh Food Bag program – If you are interested in ordering one of these bags you can order online at this link on June 29th:  
<https://unbsu.typeform.com/to/JDCUIF> for \$17, or you can pay cash at the Welcome Centre for \$15!

Breakfast Program – I met with Hanna, Sodexo's new General Manager to discuss the future of our breakfast program, since Tim Horton's and the cafeteria should be fully open this fall. I wanted to see if they'd be interested in providing us with more food options aside from the granola bars and fruit we give. Hanna is going to follow up with Tim, the previous GM.



## **Health & Dental Benefits**

Karen and I met with April Kennedy Director of Counselling Services and are working with them in finding a way to increase counselling sessions for UNB undergrads. Previously we offered WeConnect and the service wasn't used enough for us to want to carry it on this academic year. I am meeting with Karen and Kordell to follow up and make a decision on how we will go forward. I am excited to share this news with folks once things are finalized.

## **Agenda**

I spoke with YFC airport, but they recommended I speak directly to the different airlines. I reached out to the Presidents Office, David Coon's Office, Jenica Atwin's office and Financial Aid office for letters in the agenda. I organized the list of council members for the agenda and worked on other pages.

The Blueberry Association, Gahan Riverside and the HIL have finalized and signed their contract with us. I am in the middle of a conversation with Stingray radio station 92.3 and we are discussing an exchange for radio ads and agenda ads.

Lydia and I met to plan out the agenda more. I am waiting to hear back from a few others, but I am happy with the results and those who have signed.

## **Events**

Molly, our Director of Campus Events' first day was June 13<sup>th</sup>. Molly and I met with Nick from Reds about partnering for our UNBSU events and making them even bigger than before. I also discussed with him about the agenda and possibly advertising in the agenda.

Molly and I met this week to go over the budget and plans for events this academic year. We also met with Lydia to discuss separating the Events from our regular UNBSU social media pages – stay tuned for that so you can follow and stay up to date with all our events.

## **Odds & Ends**

- I met with Hilary and Megan from Sexual Violence NB and Ridhi. To discuss training and what they have planned for the year. They are still in the initial stages. They wanted to share with the community "[Rewriting the Script on Hook-up Culture](#)". It would be great if anybody

from council could take the time to fill it out. It would be greatly appreciated.

- I also sat on a panel about Supporting Survivors: Resources and Legal. We have a lot of great resources available to us and if you know anybody in need, please do not hesitate to send them to me and we can help out.
- Ridhi and I met with Nadine to discuss the “Calls to Action” they are presenting to UNB Administration.
- I met with Amy Wyntjes and Ebenezer to discuss Student Sponsorship Processes for events.
- I sat on a group call about Career Fairs and Employer Engagement.

### **Vice-President Research and Policy - Rose Grant**

Hello everyone! I hope you are all having a great week. If you have any questions about any of the work that I am doing or any concerns, please feel free to reach out to me through my email at [policy@unbsu.ca](mailto:policy@unbsu.ca).

I would love to hear any feedback. Have a great rest of your day!

### **Canadian Mental Health Association:**

I met with Bonnie Lipton-Bos from the Canadian Mental Health Association to discuss post-secondary mental health policy both federally and provincially. We discussed programs that other provinces have implemented as well as other universities. I also had a meeting with the Canadian Mental Health Association of New Brunswick's Policy Analyst Marco Bonadie to discuss policy gaps provincially.

### **Policy:**

After meeting with Kordell to discuss key policy priorities for my term. I started drafting my first policy to address affordability. This will lobby the provincial government and focus on an intersectional approach to the operational grant. Through this policy, I am researching the unique concerns of international student costs, first-generation university students, and Indigenous students concerns. I am currently looking into different provinces' policies and the change in the consumer price index.

I am currently looking into logistics for holding a roundtable in late July with Jenica Atwin and her youth council on campus. Jenica and I have been in contact with one another to discuss the plan.

I spent some time researching visa programs in Nova Scotia and perhaps ways in which we could create a policy in New Brunswick with this. Currently, I am continuing with the development of the operational grant policy task and am almost finished with the draft.

### **Meetings:**

I had a meeting with Mayor Kate Rogers to discuss policy areas that post-secondary students should advocate for. During the meeting, we discussed affordable housing options and the potential for Airbnb regulation in New Brunswick. I expressed interest in advocating for further funding for Indigenous-led climate change leadership and research.

I had a meeting with MLA David Coon where we discussed policy making, the state of mental health, and affordable housing.

I met with the interns from Sustainability UNB and asked key questions about issue areas they see in municipal and provincial policy which addresses climate change.

I met with Fredericton Tourism and agreed to take charge of the Night Market Sustainability Crew. Student volunteers from UNB can volunteer at the night market upon availability to encourage Garrison Night Market-goers and the general public to recycle their redeemable containers through the City of Fredericton's diversion initiative. I created a Typeform and information about the opportunity that was shared in the UNBSU newsletter by Lydia.

I took part in a meeting with Debra Ward, the Acting Human Rights Officer for UNB. I had a meeting with Natasha Simon from the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey center. I had a meeting with April and Matt from Counselling Services for a specific discussion on mental health policy in the province.

I took part in the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce Policy Committee where I brought feedback about the federal start-up program for

immigration. I brought forth my voice on behalf of students and discussed further climate policy.

**Contacts:**

I made contact with the MLAs in Fredericton to make sure we are talking to a diverse set of stakeholders including Dominic Carty and Jill Green. I have made contact with the organizers of Indigenous Blanket Ceremonies that Lydia had recommended for me to discuss the logistics of having executives take part in one.

I made further contact with the Menstrual Health Society to discuss how we can work in collaboration to bring the best student experience to all people.

**Conferences:**

I went Maritime Student Congress from June 17th to June 19th with fellow student leaders. At CASA I observed that the top priorities for students I have seen in the University of New Brunswick are on par with concerns elsewhere, even though we all have unique issue areas. At the conference, I was able to network and was elected to the Federal Policy Committee.

**Certificates:**

I completed the Unconscious Bias Module Certification with the Human Rights Office at the University of New Brunswick.

Again, please do not hesitate to contact me. All the best and enjoy the beautiful weather.

**Vice-President Communications - Lydia Chong**

**Conference:**

Had a great time in Ottawa at the Student Life Summit. Attended many great education sessions specific to my role on the SU and gathered some great ideas from other SU/SA's across the country. In the process of typing up my notes for future use/reference. I was also able to see many lecturers and performers and will be compiling a list for the team to take a look at.

**Orientation:**

Earlier this month they designed some O-Week logos and the team decided on one. As of Wednesday, I updated our orientation page on the website, added a countdown, added their headshots/bios, and they are now ready to launch the theme.

### **PR Crisis Response Plan:**

I am in the process of editing/updating our PR crisis response plan with things I learned in my education sessions at COCA. I reached out to the Marketing Office for advice and they will get back to me soon (they are also working on theirs currently).

### **Monthly Newsletter:**

This past Monday we put out the monthly newsletter and added info about our available hiring positions, the student business collection form, volunteer opportunities, and more!

### **ThinkTank Clean-out:**

It's finally done! Jillian and I finished cleaning and organizing the ThinkTank finally and I am happy to report that the execs are using the space to collaborate and work on our individual projects. If you are interested in seeing the space, we invite you to come see! We also found some items in storage and are giving them away as freebie ;)

### **TownHouse:**

Jillian and I have had a couple meetings these past couple weeks discussing what we want to see with TownHouse and getting things ready for the hiring of a new TownHouse coordinator. We were both previously involved with TH and really want to see this group of students come together and create a community on UNB. Some things we discussed were potential event ideas, charity ideas, and putting together the expectations of the team.

### **Strat Plan:**

Kordell and I sat down to begin the process of putting together our strategic plan for the 2022-2023 academic year! This will be something we work on over the next few weeks and hope to be put on the website soon.

### **Website Update:**

With the team, we are in the process of updating the campus resource directory. For context, it hasn't been updated since 2019/2020 and some info is outdated, not relevant, etc. If you know of any missing resources you may like to see on the directory, do let me know, I'd be happy to see where I can fit it :)

### **Other:**

Working on agenda layout with Amanda and put out resources for Pride and NIHM.

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

### **Overview**

Hey folks! I hope everyone is having a great week. This week there were a lot of meetings and moving pieces for Orientation Week. The updates from the previous 2 weeks are given below:

### **Marketing**

Over the past 2 weeks after our logo was decided on ([can be found here](#)), the Orientation team came up with the blurb for the announcements of this year's theme for Orientation explaining the vision as to what this year's theme, ALL ABOARD FREDDY BEACH stands for. Alongside the announcement of the theme, our VP Communications also updated the Orientation website uploading the theme, vision, and the Orientation Executive's (BlackShirts) headshots and introductions! Our next steps will be having meetings and setting deadlines for the marketing of Orientation initiatives.

### **Sponsorships**

Over the last two weeks, there was a meeting with Advancements to talk further about opportunities for sponsors. The sponsorship packages were sent out to advancements after some changes before their meetings with OSCO Constructions on the 21st and Irving Oil on the 22nd who are interested to sponsor Orientation and have asked the Orientation team to meet them to discuss opportunities for the organization further.

At the same time, we met with Nick Zildjan from the REDS, who has decided to sponsor Orientation for this year as well. At the same time, A list for sponsors has already been in place and we are reaching out to other sponsors

as well who have previously been a part of Orientation to continue established relationships.

### **Merchandise**

The Orientation team is close to finalizing the O-Kit Items but awaits to receive a proper quote from Brian from Coastal Graphics. The draft for the O-Kit Items are Tote bags, Wheat Straw Utensils, Smart Wallet, Pennant, Notebook + Pen, and Lanyard or Webcam Covers.

However, we did have a meeting with UNB Sustainability and have decided to demand a quote on seed pencils in an attempt to improve utility and sustainability. At the same time, we are yet to touch base on what Townhouse students will receive for their packages as well! We are also reaching out to organizations who would like to put brochures, pamphlets, merch, etc. in the O-Kits.

### **RedShirt Orientation Leaders**

Over the last two weeks emails had been sent out to applicants whose endorsers did not reply back and majority of the applicants have received their decisions regarding their applications and unsuccessful candidates have been informed of their application status alongside the reason for the denial of their application. Also, the training schedules and learning outcomes for the RedShirts training have been set up. However, the training will take more shape after collaborating with resources on campus providing us with various pieces to collaborate with and train the Redshirts preparing them for Orientation Week.

### **Shinerama**

As for Shinerama, the CF Canada team has set up and provided us with the details for the Shinarama National Conference which will be held up in June and into the start of July. At the same time, there are various events that will be held for the cause of Cystic Fibrosis and have started planning for other various things such as Shine shirts merch. Additionally, we have been in contact with Cody from Grad House to hold an event or two at the grad house to raise money for Shinerama and also have established a connection with the Campaign Advisor from Shinarama to help UNB to do the best of our ability!