

## **Minutes - UNBSU Council Meeting**

### **UNB Student Union 2022/2023**

*March 12th, 2023; in-person meeting*



Present:

- Kordell
- Halle May
- Amanda
- Isabella
- Ryan
- Keri
- Molly
- Ally
- Sarah
- Jorja
- Sean
- Abby
- Kartik
- Sangeet
- Minh
- Amy
- Kate
- Gaia
- Heer
- Kisenge

Not present:

- Warren
- Bradley
- Alexa
- Zach
- Patrick

Regrets:

- Rose
- Annie
- Emily
- Jordan
- Brittany

Also present: Josh (Council Chairperson), Kallie (Council Secretary), Drashtant (CRO), Priyam(DCRO)

## 1. Call to Order

- Council chairperson, Josh, calls the meeting to order at 6:18 PM AST.

### 1.1. Roll Call

- Council chairperson, Josh, performs roll call.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

- Chair - The agenda was sent out via email. If you do not have it, I have physical copies with me. Is there anyone who needs a copy? Are there any questions about the agenda?
- Kate - The hyperlink for the UNBSU budget is not working for me.
- Amy - The link is not working for me also.
- Amanda - I had the same issue.
- Chair - IS there anyone else who is having any problems with the hyperlinked files? I will fix the budget hyperlink and the link for the update form the Appeals Board. Are there any other questions? Are there any amendments that need to be made to the agenda?
- Gaia - I would like to add two items to the agenda. The first is a discussion on my general election report and the second is about opening the UNB community gardens again. I can't motion these amendments so I have asked Sean to do it for me.
- Sean - I would like to pass a motion to add these amendments to the agenda.
- Chair - Does anyone have any questions? a
- Kordell - Can I get an elaboration on what the discussion is about?
- Gaia - Last year I submitted a report to the CRO and I have done the same thing this year, but I unfortunately did not have time to submit this report earlier. The report talks about issues I think need to be addressed about our election processes and policies.
- Kordell - Is that report able to be sent out to folks?
- Gaia - I sent it to Josh.
- Josh - I did receive the report.
- Amanda - Can we table the item regarding the election report until the next council meeting so that people have time to review it?
- Gaia - There is no motion involved with this report, so I feel that they could include this as a conversation when the CRO gives their report.
- Chair - Is there any other discussion about the proposed motion?
  - Motion: Be it resolved that a discussion on Gaia's Election report and a discussion on the reopening of the UNB community gardens be added to the agenda.
  - Mover: Sean
  - Seconder: Sangeeth
  - Notes: No further discussion
  - The vote passes. Motion carries.

- Chair - I will add the report discussion as item 5.4. And the garden discussion as item 5.8. Are there any other amendments?
  - Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda for March 12, 2023 be approved with the proposed amendments.
  - Mover: Chair assumed
  - Seconder: Kordell
  - Notes: No discussion
  - The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

### **3. Chair's Remarks**

#### **3.1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

- Chair - I just want to acknowledge that UNB stands on the unsundered and unceded ancestral homelands of the Wolastoqey peoples.

#### **3.2. General Remarks**

- No remarks for this week.

### **4. Approval of Previous Minutes**

- Chair - The minutes were hyperlinked in the agenda that was sent out. Did anyone have any issues accessing them? Are there any questions?
  - Motion: be it resolved that the minutes from the previous council meeting are approved.
  - Mover: Chair assumed
  - Seconder: Sean
  - Notes: No discussion
  - The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

### **5. Substantive Business**

#### **5.1. UNBSU Appeals Board Update**

- Chair - The Appeals Board met regarding the appeal that was brought forth by Gaia. The hearing happened two hours after the appeal was received and was regarding the sanctions that were filed by the CRO against candidates in the general election. The Appeals Board came to a decision and decided that the sanctions filed against the candidate should remain in place. Following this, further sanctions were implemented by the board. A report regarding this decision was sent out. Does anyone have any questions?
- Gaia - If anyone has any questions for me you can ask me directly. I am open to discussion as well.
- Chair - Are there any questions for Gaia or the CRO?

#### **5.2. Update from the UNBSU Chief Returning Officer**

- The CRO provides an update on the results of the general election and the appeals that were brought forward against several candidates. All pertinent documents are attached at the end of the minutes.
- Chair - Are there any questions about this update?

#### **5.3. Ratification of the Results of the UNBSU General Election**

- Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU ratify the results of the UNBSU General Election as presented by the Chief Returning Officer.
- Mover: Chair assumed
- Seconder: Kartik
- Notes: No discussion
- The vote passes. Amanda abstains. Motion carries.

#### **5.4. Gaia's Report**

- Chair - I should have sent this report out to everyone before council began, so I will send it to you all now.
- Gaia - For those of you who do not know me, my name is Gaia. I am a current and returning student senator and board of governors member for the UNBSU, and served previously at the GSD Representative. I suspect that some may remember a similar report that I submitted on March 12, 2022, to the UNBSU Chair at the time. This report will be very similar to the previous, as I am sad to admit that I fear the concerns of that report were not addressed, and we suffered from the same issues for the second year in a row. I have no plans to discuss the behaviour of any candidate. As far as I was aware, all of our candidates this election did wonderfully. I want to start with election campaigning, with a focus on how we handle errors that candidates commit. As it stands, candidates are given a set of rules at the beginning of the election, including to not slander anyone, to keep dates in mind, and to not place posters within 15 feet of a classroom. So, I ask, what happens when these rules are broken? Well, the CRO, or an official of the CRO, contacts the candidate who broke the rule. They are told to remedy the issues, and after so many rules are broken, the candidate must suspend their campaign. This means no posting material, no sharing anything from other campaigns or your own previous posts, and no discussing the campaign in any form besides saying that it is happening. During this election, a number of candidates broke one of two of the given rules and placed their posters between 10 feet and 15 feet of a classroom, or within residence buildings. And what was the result? Well, come election week, multiple candidates, including both presidential candidates, were sanctioned from 1 AM on Monday morning to 11:59 PM on Thursday evening. This means that during the election, the most crucial part of the whole campaign period, the time where the vast majority of voters will learn of the election and choose to vote, nearly everybody who actually wanted to campaign was unable to do so. This hurts, bad. The candidates are now forced to focus on retsoring their campaign, votes go down, voters remained uninformed, and the whole process grounds to a halt. This happened to me as well. As it stands, we have no system that exists as a middle ground. No way for candidates to propose, say, going through the campus with an election official to fix any bad posters and regain their election permissions, even though this is how elections are held on the local,

provincial, and federal level. I, myself, even tried to do this, and once the election officials agreed, they entrapped me. Rather than seeking to fix any mistake posters, only one hour prior to my meet-up time, I was informed by an Appeals Board member that all problem posters found while working with the CRO to fix the issue count as an additional violation. I signed up to fix the problem of misplaced posters, and the election officials attempted to trap me using it, having myself show them every error I made. You can even see this in my appeal to the decision of sanctioning my campaign. The Appeals Board members wrote that in my meeting with them, I mentioned taking down some posters that I learned later were problems. Instead of seeing this as an attempt to fix any problems I caused, they cited it as a reason to extend my punishment by one day. This is a large problem. Our own election officials should seek to remedy errors, rather than to punish the candidates. By enacting these punishments so widely, I believe that they directly contributed to the next two fears that I have, which I will continue into. I should also note here that I have not discussed the cost of campaigning or the difficulty that our candidates may face in doing so, but such things also must be addressed. My next fear is that of an uninformed electorate. Now, I know local elections are a low-information environment, and that's not necessarily a bad thing. But what happens when voters don't know who they're voting for? Well, a few things. The most likely scenario is that they simply don't vote. This is actually the best-case scenario, because the other possibility is that they vote randomly, completely destroying the democratic essence of these elections. If we want our elections to mean something, we need voters who care, and who know who they are voting for. Otherwise, someone could run a joke ballot, or a satirical campaign, and win. And what happens to our union when the elected officials simply don't need to care? As it stands, platforms of the candidates are poorly understood, often appearing on a poster seen only in a glance or an Instagram post that gets less than 100 likes. Outreach remains difficult, with students near impossible to reach, and candidates in this election were lucky if they were even allowed to reach out to these students at all. This next problem builds on the previous. Recall how I said that there is a reasonable chance that an uninformed voter does not vote? Well, in 2022, the election turnout was 595 out of 7698 voters, a total of 7.7%. When I saw these numbers last year, I reported that this robs all candidates of their democratic mandate, and makes candidates unable to trust that the results of the election are representative. This year, the results repeated themselves. A total of 475 out of 7513 people voted, giving a total of 6.3%. The races that featured at least two candidates were as follows: president had 241 versus 234, a total of 50.7%; VPES had 295 versus 180, a total of 62.1%; VPSW had 316 versus 159, a total of 66.5%; Computer Science Councilor had 59 versus 36, a total of 62.1%; and the Engineering Councilor had 54 versus 37, a total of 59.3%. Excluding the

presidential election result, these results look incredibly similar to our elections last year. Once again, you can summarize nearly every election as a victory. Unlike last year, we cannot see the number of voters who abstained, but the number seems to rise after the presidential election, where it stays pretty consistent. The only election that broke this trend was the presidential election, where the results were incredibly close. Similar to last year, I fear that this means that our elections were dominated by two groups of people: those who are active in Student Union politics or their friends, and those who just happened to see an advertisement or notification email. Both of these groups face the problem of being single-race voters, who are likely to select the remaining candidates at random or by a first-position bias. Regardless, I do not believe there is a short-term solution to this problem, so I rather simply seek to identify it formally, so that it may be addressed by the incoming executive. Regardless, this is incredibly worrying. Our students don't care about elections, and vote more than likely because their friends told them, or because they happened to see an advertisement. This forms an incredibly biased environment where students simply do not care about elections or their student union as a whole, and if we cannot fix this, we are on track to completely lose any political or organizational power we enjoy with the university. If we cannot get students to vote, how do we get them to care or show support when tuition comes under review, or when the university considers axing a student service? The fact that students simply do not care, and likely vote due to a few posters or their friends, also means that a large number of voters will become single-issue voters, only voting to elect a single person and then randomly choosing the rest. While this theoretically should balance out for all candidates, it once again introduces the lack of democratic mandate. Furthermore, this introduces a problem that I discussed in my previous report, the "First-Name" bias, where voters are significantly more likely to vote for the first name on a ballot if they are uninformed. I will not touch on it further here, but it does turn every race into a test of "do I accept this first person?" rather than "who do I feel is better?" And, in the case that the candidates are somewhat equal in campaigning and one considers the first-position bias, it still becomes a question of "whose name do I like better?" rather than "who would perform better?" I know I have taken a lot of your time with this report, so I will try to keep this quick. Change happens at this university because we, as council, voice a need for a change, and task our executive with enacting it. This is how government works, we serve as the legislature, and our executive is the actual executive for our student government. Senators and Board of Governors members act mostly as diplomats in this system, representing our government to respective bodies whose opinion and decisions matter to us. So, what happens when we don't have a legislature? Well, we cannot enact change, at least not in a way that isn't

the executive deciding their own wishes for change and hoping that the university agrees. Furthermore, without students coming to vote and voice their opinions, it's impossible for us to even know what students want, we simply force our executive to play a guessing game. We have 12 incoming councilors this year. Our organizational chart defined a maximum of 22 councilors. If we were to exclude those who are not elected during this general election, that's 12 out of 20. More than 50%, but nowhere near enough to enact the change that campus needs to see. It's not enough to appropriately staff our committees, nor to work on councilor projects and to volunteer. And it isn't sufficient for our executive to simply pick new councilors as acting members. Putting friends into positions of power is how we lose the entire democratic aspect of our union, and risks it being unable to function. Further harming the issues created by the low number of incoming councilors is the loss of our more experienced members. The vast majority of the people sitting on council right now will not be returning next year. So, our next council will be inexperienced, and will have to learn the function of council independently, through possible trial and error. This is a dangerous situation to be in. Council already is risking being partially non-functional due to the lack of members, but it will be further harmed by the fact that those members have to learn everything themselves, even with the transition reports. Without experienced members to act somewhat as guides, or at least organizers, we cannot expect our council to be functional until quite far into the next academic year, at which it may be too late for them to begin completing their agenda. This extends even into our executive, where only the President and VPFO have more than one semester of experience in their position. Now, with these problems laid out, allow me to submit a few proposals for how our current council and future executive may begin solving these problems. As a non-voting member, I will not be submitting these as direct motions to be voted on, but I implore any members here to consider them and propose those they agree with. My recommendations are as follows: provide significantly union-funded spaces for candidates to campaign through, including spaces in the SUB, through SU emails, and on official Student Union social media accounts; provide each candidate with a number of free posters for their campaign, so that the costs of campaigning do not prohibit a student from engaging in a campaign; begin a monthly or even more frequent information campaign that aggressively promotes the actions that the Student Union has taken. Every student should know every victory that we as a student union had, and how they can support further action; reconnect students with the Student Union. Covid significantly damages the connection that students have with the Union, and it lies in the Union to put in a lot of effort in rebuilding that connection, so that students care about the Union once again; completely reform how candidates are punished for election

violations, encouraging repairing any damage that was done rather than punishing those who did the damage. Apology letters and walkthroughs of campus are two tools that could be of great value here; allow experienced members to run for both executive and councilor positions simultaneously, but only allow them to accept one positions once the election is over, giving the other positions to the second place in the election. This will serve to maintain those members who have skills that future councils will desperately need. I would also like to highly encourage that the current and future council seek their own solutions to these problems. As an individual, I am unable to solve every issue that we encounter, but I want to be part of the solution, and I hope everybody here shares that goal. Thank you all for taking the time to review this report. If anyone has any questions, feel free to ask me now or reach out to me at a later time.

- Kordell - I just have some notes. Respectfully, if we have to rely on bylaw violating material as a means of driving turnout, then there's much more serious issues. These bylaws are legal documents that we have legal responsibilities to uphold under our article of incorporation and provincial law. As the Appeals Board report indicated, candidates were given an opportunity to remove violating material and there was even an instance of a candidate choosing not to remove campaign material that they acknowledged violated bylaws as they felt it would negatively harm their campaign to remove. One note about posters, and I've raised this with Drashtant: in the future, candidates should be required to maintain a list of where they placed their posters to ensure that when issues arise, it is easy to find. Voter turnout and information relies on candidates. Quite honestly, as a student, this was the least amount of campaign material I've seen in my entire 6 years at UNB. Every single eligible voter gets an email about voting opening, we post it on social media, our website, and in our newsletter. I share your concerns with the number of incoming councilors. The solution isn't just appointing interim councilors. Student Unions inherently have turnover. There are lots of opportunities to bring experienced members back into the fold of the Union; two executive positions are strategically hired post elections; by-elections, and hiring of dozens of staff. I also have concerns about giving social media spotlights to campaign. First, our social medias are busy, and using another Instagram that isn't our main has issues with engagement. Second, and more importantly, similar to first-name bias, if one candidate's material is up first or last, we may open up appeals based on the potential that materials may be viewed more or less.
- Gaia - I want to give one point of clarification about reviewing violations. I am not trying to suggest that the job of the CRO or the DCRO was done wrong. The issue is in the bylaws. We have room to discuss punishments and punishment schemes before sanctions are imposed. Talking to voters needs to



be done so maybe the bylaws need to be amended so that candidates can go talk to voters to get them to vote. It is on us as council to make sure students feel welcomed and included and want to be involved in the Union. I will still be here next year to give advice, but I think you all should still think of some ideas. I have been pushing my suggestions for the past two years. Thank you everyone and feel free to ask any questions.

- Chair - Are there any questions? Can someone loan their speaking rights to Thomas?
  - Motion: Be it resolved that Amanda Smith loan her speaking rights to Thomas.
  - Mover: Chair assumed
  - Secunder: Sangeeth
  - Notes: No discussion
  - The vote was taken using unanimous consent.
- Thomas - One of the biggest things I feel why no one votes is because no one cares. That sounds harsh, but it is the truth. What do we have that we haven't already lost? The entire upstairs is being renovated, we lost Jamba Juice and the convenience store. On the website you can see who is running, but there are no defined definitions of what each position does. With politics like in the U.S. or Canada, we know the policies and what they want to pass, but we don't really know that about the Union.
- Chair - Are there any responses?
- Sangeet - So one of the things I have noticed that I have seen some people vote just because they know the names. That is not the right way to do it. They should read all the campaign materials and then decide. As councilors, again the point I have been mentioning at council, whenever we meet about events we always make sure to introduce ourselves at events about who we are and what we do. We need to let people know. These are the steps we can take as a council. Maybe we have issues and we can only do so much. All of us have to do our part and make sure we can successfully bring the Union to students and let them know what we do. If there is anything related to your positions, go for it, do it. Let people know that you are this and what you do. At least we have in mind what you do. Let people know so next time there is an election they will be more serious about it. They are all working to ensure we have a better student experience.
- Keri - I just have a couple words. I would also like to add that as councilors we should introduce ourselves more. I feel I have trouble with this. I am awful at introducing myself to people and making my position known. I guess to anyone incoming it is a good suggestion. I was reading the report and I have some comments. One thing they mentioned is the President and VPFO have more experience than the other executives. I feel that this undermines the others. For example, Halle May was hired and is doing really well in the

position. I have good feelings about next year that the people who have been elected will do well. The other thing is the amount of posters that need to be put up. The way I think about it is from a sustainability perspective. That's a lot of paper. Maybe reducing the amount of posters that can be put up less and that way there would be less violations, but that is not the point. The point is sustainability. Another thing regarding the violation is I guess if the rules were said before the campaigning period was underway, I think having that awareness is important, but things happen and that is not anybody's fault. Things that could change is the amount of restrictions on campaign posters.

- Chair - Is there anyone else with a response or further discussion?
- Amanda - Thank you Keri for making those points. That was nice of you to say.
- Thomas - I just want to bring some things up as far as changes. Another example is things like the Harrison House tradition of dropping a pumpkin off the roof. They couldn't do it this year due to insurance reasons. I was just talking about things like that.
- Amy - The pumpkin sacrifice is not a SU affair. It falls on Residence Life and they decided not to do it.
- Chair - Does anyone else have anything to add?

#### **5.5. In-Camera Session: Discussion of the UNB Food Services Contract**

- Motion: Be it resolved that council move into an in-camera session and permit all members of the incoming UNBSU Council and the present Cellar Pub Staff to be in attendance.
- Mover: Chair assumed
- Seconder: Ryan
- Notes: No discussion
- The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.
- Chair - We will now enter into an in-camera session. Due to the nature of this conversation, if you need to step out or be excluded, you are welcome to step out now. Also, a reminder there will be no minutes recorded during this session.
  - Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU Council take the stance of unfair treatment of the Food Services staff.
  - Mover: Minh
  - Seconder: Isabella
  - Notes: No further discussion
  - The vote passes. Motion carries.

#### **5.6. Discussion on the UNB Budget (Tabled Item from February 26th, 2023)**

- Kordell - Hey folks, as the current council would know, I had a meeting with Kathy Wilson, Petra, Bill, Mark Warren, Deon Debley, and myself to discuss UNB's proposed budget. UNB is proposing a 4.5% increase. What I gathered from the meeting is there is no chance of a reduction of the increase. UNB is approving the budget through the Finance and Properties Committee in April and the

Board of Governors on April 20. There is a full tuition reset coming. The last tuition reset had an increase in the double digit percentages. This is just something to be aware of for the incoming council. There will be a 5.2% increase for student services, a 3% increase for scholarships and a full review of the student services happening over the next two years. This is to assess the efficiencies in the services and where the demand is for counseling, either individually or in a group setting. They will also be looking at where the pressure points are for the Accessibility Center. Whether they need more staff or if there is a wider issue of not having enough space. All of those things will be considered in the review and is happening from service to service within the offered student services. We will have student representation either through an executive or a senator on those committees. I expressed that students wouldn't be happy and the various concerns we heard and just left it at that. After a hour and a half long conversation, it was very clear that we were not on the same page. Since then, on March 2, we had a Board of Governors meeting. I spoke in front of the entire board about our dissatisfaction, specifically the student consultation timeline. There are a couple of issues, one being that Gaia will be the only board representative from Fredericton, which will break the ten year tradition of having the President be a board member. This is a unique situation and I discussed this with the Chair and Vice Chair of the board and the President of the university as a highlight because no one experienced consultation with the Student Union. I raised this concern because the university needs to do a lot more consulting with students when making this decision. A couple updates I have is that there was a suggestion for the administration to come to council to present about the budget cycle to help us better understand how that works and give us insight on how to approach advocating for students. I would like to know if folks would be interested in this presentation. I spoke about the disconnect and had a call with Paul Mazerolle and through this conversation, the university agreed to allocate 200,000 dollars in funding to student services, primarily towards counseling services. This is the second largest monetary change we have gotten out of the Board of Governors as far as I could find in the minutes. That is how the conversation went. The university found 200,000 to be an appropriate amount, but I am unsure if that is satisfactory with folks, but that is where we are at and again I want to highlight that is it pretty much too far in the process to get any change happening, it is just more about making a statement or a stance. We can always advocate for more change and hope it will happen, but I am lowering my expectations because it is early in April when UNB has to approve must approve the budget due to the requirement in the UNB Act. Is 200,000 something we are happy about?

- Gaia - I am very happy to see the 200,000 dollar increase. Was it just mental health services or all health services?
- Kordell - It is specifically allocated to counseling services.
- Gaia - It is normally a short time period to get funding for these services. 200,000 is a lot of money. They could probably hire like three counselors with that. I am happy to see that we are getting something. We have to keep advocating, but I am happy to see change.
- Kordell - I appreciate that Gaia and to the point of how many staff we could hire, we invest 25,000 dollars which gives us around 300 appointments a year, so the extra money will get us a lot more appointments. Conducting a review of all student services is a great thing for the university to undertake. The way we handled Covid is changing greatly and a lot of change we see now has stemmed from that. I wanted to highlight the scale of 200,000 dollars. It may not sound like a lot when talking about a multi-million dollar budget, but when it impacts students it is a lot of money.

- Chair - Is there any other discussion?

#### **5.7. Presentation of the UNBSU Final Budget**

- Isabella - I do not have much to say. Karen and I are working on the final budget. The numbers probably will change since there are some things we have not received yet, so this budget is as up to date as we can currently give you.
- Chair - Are there any questions for Isabella?
  - Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU ratify the Final Budget for the 2022-2023 operating year as presented.
  - Mover: Chair assumed
  - Secunder: Kordell
  - Notes: No discussion
  - The vote passes. Kartik abstains. Motion carries.

#### **5.8. Discussion on UNB Community Garden**

- Gaia - I was approached by a student to discuss the community garden that UNB used to run and they had the idea of bringing it back. There are two approaches we can take. We can take to administration or if the Student Union wants to support this idea, we can take that approach as well. I wanted to invite the student to speak to us on this, so they need to be granted speaking rights.
  - Motion: Be it resolved that Jorja Smith grants Gaia's speaking rights to Holly to present on the UNB Community Garden.
  - Mover: Jorja
  - Secunder: Sean
  - Notes: No discussion
  - The vote passes. Motion carries.

- Holly - I did not know that this would be so formal. Hello everyone, my name is Holly Carter and I am a third year ENR student. I was a chef for five years, working abroad and I am very passionate about food sustainability and access. NB is the lowest province for food access. Low income earners are separate from that like single mothers and students. We are all aware of the grocery price increases, pesticide use increase and just how muddled food is becoming. I think we are all a little bit like what is going on with our food system. I wanted to introduce this type of conversation in this space and having a community garden is going to allow people to talk about that and how important it is. Bringing the conversation to you all is a good use of student power and intelligence.
- Kordell - I think that is a fantastic thing to be thinking of. I will highlight that the campus garden was owned and run by the Student Union and is still existing as SU space. It wasn't open because the Enterprise 3 building served as a fourth wall of fencing and UNB has demolished that building. With the renovation and construction going on it cleared out the garden. The intention is to bring it back and begin the hiring process for a garden coordinator. We want to have the individual onboarded and trained in May so that folks can begin buying plots. We also have Student Union plots where we grow food and give it away to those in need. Certainly, the community garden that exists is the Student Union's, so you brought the idea to the right place and we do plan to reopen it this summer.
- Amanda - Holly, I absolutely welcome you to make an appointment with me. I can show you the proper documentation and we have had the sustainability team come in who told us we need to renovate all of it.
- Gaia - Will there be volunteer opportunities with this?
- Kordell - There usually is. We have folks who are interested in maintaining a Student Union plot and also folks who weed between the plots. I am not sure exactly, but folks will communicate back and forth and those who are more experienced will share the best practices for keeping weeds out and how to lay out your plots.

### **5.9. Faculty Councilor Updates**

- Keri - I wrote my transition report.
- Molly - I have been working on my transition report, but unfortunately there is no incoming Kinesiology Councilor.
- Ally - I have been working on my transition report, but I am writing it for myself.
- Sarah - I also have been working on my report and my only other update is that Friday we are having a transition day where second year students are coming from the UNBSJ campus.

- Jorja - I am just working on the report and also working on my councilor project which will be at the beginning of April. It is Forest Fest, so everyone in Forestry is invited, as well as professionals.
- Sean - I am currently writing my transition report and am doing more work with the Briggs initiative, which is a personal project. I reached out to the ratified societies to get all the opportunities for them listed in one area. Councilors how are currently working on projects, please reach out to me so I can add your project.

### **5.10. Non-Faculty Councilor Updates**

- Abby - I am working on my transition report.
- Kartik - I was going to start my transition report, but I am the next International Student Representative.
- Sangeet - I am working on my transition report and have also contacted STU regarding having my event there, but they are already having a housing fair. I will try my best to attend, but if not I would like to ask my successor to attend the event. The other thing is I sent a message to Halle May about my suggestions for the Breaking Stereotypes Campaign.
- Minh -I just have a question about my position. Since my position is not re-elected in the General Election, what happens to me?
- Chair - Your position ends at the end of PARil, so essentially there is no First Year Representative until the by-election.
- Amy - I have written my transition report and will be sending it to Josh, however no one has been elected to the position, so I am just waiting for instructions. I am working on a new councilor project idea after some issues with logistics for the “residence closet” idea. There is now an idea for “The Amazing Residence Race” which is a scavenger hunt similar to GooseChase. This is currently awaiting approval from ResLife to be sent out to students and I am hoping to run it the first week of April and give the winning house the prize the second week of April.
- Kate - My councilor project is happening on March 22, and is called Spring Pickings and is from 11 AM to 4 PM in the third floor event space at the HIL. It is an opne house ty[e of event that is hosted by me and the Menstrual Health Society. It is a continuation from last year to provide sustainable menstrual products so students can bring home a supply of these products. If you are available, feel free to stop by. I attended the National Women’s Day celebration and received the Minister’s Award in Championing Gender Equality, which is really exciting. It is kind of from a project last year and is continuing into this year.

### **5.11. Student Senator/Board of Governors Update (Optional)**

- Gaia - Just so everyone know, the Senate Admission Committee is starting up and meeting this week. If anyone has any questions, please send me an email regarding anything you would like me to bring up in this meeting.

- Chair - Are there any questions for Gaia?

## **6. Reports to Council**

### **6.1. Vice President - Events and Services**

- Sat on monthly meeting with the VP Academic and the Student Union Executive.
- Applied for sponsorship for the SURA's.
- Looked at the budget with Karen.
- Contacted the Delta and have the night booked for the SURA's.
- Working on typeform and for dinner registration and dietary restrictions - free meal and honour our students.
- Looked into where we can take our textbooks with CWUF and Textbooks for Change and will be working with them.
- Dealt with a complaint about SafeRide.
- Working on my transition letter for the incoming VPES.
- Worked with the Cellar and Josh for planning this evening's event.
- Looking for Red and Black Revue volunteers - need to buy their food but will volunteer before and after the event and will counted as their volunteer hours.
- Submitted Molly and Jigem's hours for Payroll.
  - Minh - if we wanted to volunteer do we just contact you?
  - Amanda - yes, just shoot me an email.

### **6.2. Vice President - Research and Policy**

- Took part in a Federal Policy Committee onboarding meeting.
- Took part in a Federal Policy Committee meeting.
- Took part in a meeting with VP Academic Kathy Wilson.
- Took part in a meeting with UNB Sustainability and a professor on campus for a teach in event happening at the end of this month. Please reach out if you are interested in attending the panel discussions surrounding climate change from a student perspective.
- Advertised MLA Monday to various professors around campus.
- Did final revisions and submitted the UNBSU's 2023 pre-budget submission.
- Did research one afternoon regarding OERs and related advocacy efforts that have been done in Nova Scotia.
- Answered various emails with students asking questions regarding Townhall Tuesdays and MLA Mondays.

### **6.3. Vice President - Communication**

- Update will be provided next week.

### **6.4. Vice President - Academic**

- Planned the What's New with the SU.
- Prepped for Nominating Committee.
- Prepped for the emergency Senate Meeting.
- Caught up on emails.
- Worked on exam bank.

### **6.5. Vice President - Finance and Operations**

- Met with a club.
- Did a check-in with Gaia.
- Had a meeting with Miriam in regards to Blackshirt hiring.
- Doing Blackshirt hiring.
- Hiring for VP Communications and VP Research and Policy.

### **6.6. Vice President - Student Wellness**

- Met with Anna for Nutrition Month event.
- Met with Kartik about Cultural Week.
- Sent Annie the information for Cultural Week.
- Met with Molly about the possibility of having a dance for Destress Fest.
- Met with Becky to book a space for Nutrition Month event.
- Met with Abby and Emily for a collab with MHA for Destress Fest.
- Met with Cindy to confirm food for the Global Gala.
- Met with Matt again for decorations for Global Gala.
- Met with Jhanvi about Destress Fest.
- Contacted the winners of prizes for Sex Toy Bingo to come pick them up.
- Confirmed a theme for Breaking Stereotypes.
- Booked Campus Security for the Global Gala.

### **6.7. President**

- Met with Peyton, a law student, about the implementation of UNB's Climate Action Plan.
- Prepped for the meeting with UNB Admin about the budget.
- Meeting with the UNB Admin about the budget.
- Interview with Nexus, the newspaper for Camosun College about the #HalfYourCSG campaign.
- Fredericton Affordable Housing Committee.
- UNB Board of Governors meeting.
- Met with Kathy Wilson.
- Met with Brooke DeLong, Board Finance Committee chair about the budget, possible presentation.
- Call with Paul Mazerolle about the budget.
- Made the Agenda for National Advocacy Committee with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.
- Met with National Advocacy Committee.
- Had an interview with the Charlatan, the newspaper for Carleton university in Ottawa, about the #HalfYourCSG campaign.
- Finished writing my Board Action Plan for CASA AGM.
- CASA Board meeting.
- General prep for CASA AGM in 2 weeks, and work on CASA's campaign
- General stuff - answering emails, calls with students, etc.
- Will also be taking time off this week, as I worked part of March Break.



## **7. Announcements**

### **7.1. 'What's New with the SU' Update**

- Chair - Last week we were supposed to have Jenica Atwin, but unfortunately she had to withdraw due to last minute scheduling issues. We have rescheduled her to come on the show in the beginning of April. This week we have Kordell coming on, then the next show with David Coon, and the show after that will feature Paul Mazerolle.

### **7.2. Councilor Transition Reports - March 19th, 2023**

- Chair - I want to give a big thank you to those who have started their reports. A general reminder is that they are due March 19 and we will distribute them to your successor. If you are staying in the same position, some ways you can think of this is using it as a building block for next year when you will have a successor. For those of you with no successor, please finish the report so we can give it to the next student who comes along. Are there any questions?

### **7.3. Councilor of the Month - March 12th, 2023**

- Chair - I know we are at the middle of the month, but with Reading Week, we had to wait. The form was sent out and the councilor was chosen. The winner was also the previous councilor of the month. The councilor of the month for February is Sangeeth. I got you a plaque and a giftcard to the Cellar. Are there any other announcements?

## **8. Other Business**

- Chair - For all of the new councilors and executives, congratulations. I would like to formally invite you to the rest of the council sessions so that you can stay informed. The next session is next Sunday. It is more formal than tonight's meeting and will be in Tilley Hall Room 303.

## **9. Adjournment**

- Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU council meeting for March 12, 2023 be adjourned at 9:12 PM AST.
- Mover: Chair assumed
- Seconder: Isabella
- Notes: No discussion

- The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

Kalli Calder  
Secretary

Kimberly Walsh  
President

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