

JANUARY 21ST 2018

UNBSU Council Minutes

Regrets: Shanece Wilson, Jackie Toner, Emily Meagher, Mick Jefferies.

Absent: Mariacristina De Rose, Parker Somerville, Ryan Wallace.

1. Call to Order

Chair Smith calls meeting to order at 7:01pm.

1.1 Roll Call

Secretary Williamson performs roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

Lutes: 5.5 iii has been withdrawn, items 5.5 ii and 5.4 are the same item.

Bempah: May we combine items 5.2 and 5.3?

Iyengar: May we move items 5.4 and 5.5 to the beginning of Substantive Business?

Changes to the agenda approved by friendly amendment.

3. Chair's Remarks

Smith: We will not approve the January 14th minutes until our next meeting, as council has not had enough time to review them.

4. Approval of Minutes

Cormier: Some corrections for the January 14th minutes: the names need to be clarified under Regrets and Absences, and there is a typo in item 5.2.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Motion for UNBSU History Action Plan

Iyengar: This motion concerns the racist and white supremacist posters that have appeared around campus during the past week, specifically in Carleton and Tilley Hall. They call for a rejection of the "anti-white narrative" that is being "pushed in the media and academia" and call

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for the stoppage of the “slander” of the founding Europeans of Canada. These posters also attempt to suggest that residential schools “weren’t that bad”, and incidents of abuse were isolated and not racially motivated. The posters state that native Americans are beneficiaries, not victims, of a society built by Europeans. These posters would be funny if they weren’t so terrifying. A series of different posters, expressing similar views and accredited to the same group, have been seen and taken down.

Councillor Iyengar shows pictures of the posters to council.

Iyengar: Obviously, these posters are completely at odds with UNBSU values. To respond to these posters, councillor Lutes and I have put together this motion that we hope effectively addresses the issue without giving the white supremacist group more attention than they deserve. Further, this motion proposes how the UNBSU can act and demonstrate how important reconciliation, Indigenisation, and multiculturalism is.

Councillor Iyengar reads the original motion, which reads as follows:

“WHEREAS

- The University of New Brunswick Student Union and the whole of the UNB community operates on the traditional and un-ceded territory of the Wolastoq people.
- Posters, espousing a revisionist history which aimed to disseminate false information about the history of residential schools in Canada and the cultural genocide of Indigenous people, were placed around Carleton Hall and Tilley Hall.
- These posters furthermore espoused a xenophobic tone and had violent overtones towards individuals coming from outside of Canada

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- These values are at odds with University of New Brunswick Student Union policy, values, and projects which aim to promote reconciliation, indigenisation, multiculturalism, peace, and tolerance.
- The University of New Brunswick Student Union aims to promote reconciliation efforts and supports the work of individuals on campus in indigenisation efforts.
- It is the responsibility of the UNBSU to ensure that the historical background which motivates its reconciliation efforts are presented to the general public.
- Offering educational events and/or services to help the public understand the complex and difficult historiography of Indigenous-Coloniser relations will improve and support reconciliation and indigenisation efforts.

“BE IT RESOLVED

- The UNBSU denounces the presence of posters on the UNB Fredericton campus that aimed to minimise the harm done by residential schools and promote a xenophobic narrative with violent overtones.
- The UNBSU also commends the Brunswickan for its diligent reporting of the presence of these posters, the purported source of this material, and the inaccuracies of their narrative.
- The UNBSU reaffirms its commitment to reconciliation efforts, part of which will involve educating its membership and the public at large about the residential school system and the attempted cultural genocide of Indigenous peoples through that system.
- The UNBSU Executive commits to presenting to Council an action plan to promote education and understanding about the history of Indigenous-Coloniser relations inline with its ongoing reconciliation efforts, no later than March 11th, 2018.

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- Before the end of the Winter 2018 term on the UNBF campus, at least one event, programme, or campaign should occur or be implemented in line with the above action plan.
- The UNBSU reaffirms its commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action through its Reconciliation Committee and Indigenisation process.
- The UNBSU reaffirms the rights of indigenous students to study in an environment free of discrimination and fear of repercussions for expressing their identity.
- The UNBSU reaffirms that students on this campus from all national, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds have the right to study in an equal, open, and safe environment.”

Iyengar: Some changes do need to be made to the original motion through friendly amendments. Questions?

Hamilton: Do we need to use the phrase ‘cultural genocide’? What occurred was also just a plain ‘genocide’.

Lutes: I second that. There’s no legal definition of cultural genocide. That phrasing makes it seem like what occurred was ‘less bad’. We should remain accurate and use accurate terms.

Iyengar: I won’t object, but I will add that ‘cultural genocide’ was first used in 1944 in reference to the Holocaust. It’s describing one specific aspect of the genocide that occurred. I believe this is the reason why governments use this term.

McMillan: I also second using the term ‘genocide’. We need to acknowledge the violence that occurred and continues to occur.

Iyengar: If there’s broad support for the change, then I will do that as a friendly amendment.

The friendly amendment passes by indicated support from the council.

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Hamilton: As our Indigenous Councillor isn't on campus this semester, did other Indigenous community members look over this motion?

Iyengar: No. I stuck to what I know and what language has been used by the UNBSU previously. The motion attempts to convey the sentiment, 'we support what other people are doing on this issue and in terms of their Indigenisation efforts'.

Dykens: Reconciliation would be the term being used on campus and by the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre; Indigenisation is the term that spurs most of the white supremacist posters. The feeling on the term 'Indigenisation' is that it refers to trying to change culture instead of trying to accept others.

Iyengar: So, should we avoid using 'Indigenisation'?

Dykens: I would, but you would have to rewrite the motion.

Iyengar: That's doable, if there's support for it.

Lutes: 'Indigenisation' is the term used by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. If we want to be actionable on this, we must accord with the calls to action presented by the Commission. I don't think it's so overused in this document that it's aggressive or militant; I think the emphasis is on 'Reconciliation'. We will have to contend with this term in the future, so I think it's appropriate to use.

MacIsaac: I second that. In every instance where 'Indigenisation' is used in the motion, we pair it with 'Reconciliation'. Its use is not meant to be aggressive.

Hebert: I have a grammatical suggestion. 'Wolastoq' is the river, not the people. You mean to say 'Wolastoqiyik'.

Iyengar: Thank you!

The grammatical change is made through friendly amendment.

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Smith: I would suggest you make the ‘cultural genocide’ change as a proper amendment.

Motion to amend the wording ‘cultural genocide’ to ‘genocide’ in the proposed motion.

Mover: Lutes

Second: McMillan

Vote passes.

Reid: In the third-last ‘be it resolved’, the word ‘Indigenisation’ has a z instead of an s.

Iyengar: We fixed that in our Policy and Advancement committee meeting.

Smith: Can you highlight all the amendments you performed in that meeting?

Cormier: They were mostly grammatical, including removing the hyphen from ‘un-ceded’.

Our biggest change regarded our acknowledgement of the Brunswickan.

Iyengar: We wanted to highlight how diligently they reported, but more importantly, they were very good about rectifying inaccurate history. We didn’t want to comment on how much the Brunswickan publishes because that’s not our job, so we changed the motion to just acknowledge their diligent reporting and fact checking.

Dyken: Question on fourth ‘whereas’ point, should we specify that it’s the UNB Fredericton campus?

This change is made through friendly amendment.

The council votes on approving item 5.1.

Mover: Iyengar

Second: Lutes

Vote passes on approving item 5.1.

5.2 No More Stolen Sisters Position Statement

Lutes: If you search Amnesty Canada No More Stolen Sisters, that should be their website.

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Lutes: Before I present the motion, I'll give a brief overview of their campaign. No More Stolen Sisters is a campaign that responds to the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women. While it's not directly related to student politics, this issue is something that affects most of, if not all, our Indigenous students on campus. I propose that the UNBSU endorse this campaign as a demonstration of our commitment to reconciliation and Indigenisation.

The campaign involves demonstrating support for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry, as well as making sure that the inquiry is done in a responsible and correct way. In terms of what we can do as an organization, we can sign the campaign pledge, which aims to hold the government accountable to this inquiry; we may also choose to hold a pledge-writing night. This campaign can connect us with multiple resources and options in terms of advancing a public profile for our Indigenisation work.

Councillor Lutes reads the motion, which reads as follows:

“WHEREAS

The UNB Student Union and the whole of the UNB community operates on the traditional and un-ceded territory of the Wolastoq people;

The UNBSU Human Rights Policy denounces discrimination and compels the Union to preserve and defend the dignity and human rights of our members, including indigenous students;

The UNBSU recognizes that ongoing systematic discrimination and violence against indigenous peoples is a human rights issue which impacts indigenous students;

The UNBSU feels that the ongoing phenomenon of missing and murdered indigenous women (MMIW), which also affects indigenous girls and two-spirit people is a pressing issue which requires addressing by all Canadian society.

“BE IT RESOLVED

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The UNB Student Union joins with other student unions across the country in signing on to and endorsing Amnesty International's "No More Stolen Sisters" campaign."

Lutes: Questions and amendments?

Hebert: 'Wolastoq' is the river, not the people. You mean to say 'Wolastoqiyik'.

Cormier: 'Un-ceded' should not have a hyphen. How much other Student Unions around have signed this campaign?

Lutes: I don't know. I know it's officially supported by one of the Francophone Student Unions... And I think McMaster did also. CFS endorsed it federally.

Dykens: 'Indigenous' should be capitalized throughout.

Iyengar: Did CFS just endorse this recently? It's not on their website.

Lutes: I'm not sure on the specifics. It says they endorse the campaign on the CFS website. It was originally conceived of by Amnesty Canada, and maybe CFS have donated to the campaign... I don't think there's any official relationship beyond public support.

Bempah: I think this is a lovely development and I would like to support it, but whenever CFS comes into the discussion, we need to research the initiative fully so it does not clash with our affiliation with CASA. If possible, can we table this to our next meeting? So we can confirm that this campaign isn't directly affiliated with CFS.

Smith: We can motion to table after everyone has spoken.

Fernandez: Are you suggesting that we publicly support this campaign, or go further and host a pledge-writing night?

Lutes: The motion is for UNBSU as a body to endorse the campaign. I suggest that we do a pledge-writing night later on, but that's not officially in the motion.

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Reid: I don't think policy position statements needs specific actions written into them. Also, has this been through the Policy and Advancement committee?

Lutes: No. This has been a bit hurried.

Reid: That's okay that it hasn't. Any councillor can bring up any statement and put it through to the Policy and Advancement committee after. I propose we do so in this case.

Bempah: That also gives us enough time to research and revise this initiative.

Motion to advance the No More Stolen Sisters position statement to the Policy and Advancement committee, and report back on the position statement's progress at a further council meeting.

Mover: Bempah

Second: Iyengar

Vote passes.

Abstentions: Lutes.

5.3 Revised Budget/Financial Review Update

VP Finance & Operations Grayson Beirsto presents to council the final budget and the financial review. Beirsto explains that the final budget is due on January 30th and must be approved by February 20th. In detail, he runs through the budget, highlights all key points and any semi-major changes, and indicates that the budget ends with a \$400 surplus.

Motion to advance the budget to the Finance committee.

Mover: Beirsto

Second: Lutes

Vote passes unanimously.

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5.4 Update on UNBSU General Elections 2017/2018, DCRO Appointment

Bempah: We've been looking for a new DCRO. We only received one applicant, Anna Petrie, but we think she'd be great in this position. We're working closely with the CRO, Matt Poirier, to ensure that elections go well. The selections committee has approved our decision, but council must vote officially on our selection. Thank you to senator Reid and councillors Beriault and Dykens for attending the committee meeting.

WHEREAS the selections committee was tasked with soliciting, receiving, and reviewing resumes for the position of Deputy Chief Returning Officer;

WHEREAS the committee has interviewed many candidates and has come to a unanimous decision;

BE IT RESOLVED that Anna Petrie be appointed Deputy Chief Returning Officer for the 2017-18 academic year.

Cormier: Can we change it to read, "for the remainder of the 2017-18 academic year"?

Bempah: Yes. Consider that changed through a friendly amendment.

Mover: Bempah

Second: McMillan

Vote passes.

Abstentions: Beirsto, McGinn, Bempah.

Bempah: Thank you, everyone! Tomorrow the 22nd of January, we post the first nominations announcement; we want to ensure a good voter turnout. We will announce the dates of the upcoming information sessions soon, and we need your help in making sure these sessions are well attended.

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Something else: we want to set up as many polling stations around campus as possible. If you are not going to run in the upcoming election, we want you to be part of this process and help us with the polling stations. Let us know!

Beairsto: If you know anyone who might be interested in running, please encourage them!

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President Student Life

- An official resignation still has not been received from Brian Tozer, so the VP Student Life responsibilities are being divided amongst the executive team.
- We're putting together an emergency Frost Week, so stay tuned!

6.2 Vice President Finance & Operations Grayson Beairsto

- Clubs and Societies work is going well;
- I picked president Bempah up from the airport... But I was half an hour late. Sorry, Herbert, but technically you told me the wrong time.
- I've been involved in the DCRO selection process;
- I met with Student Services about the upcoming Sodexo food review. We will need two representatives from each faculty to meet as a focus group and put forth productive and constructive thoughts on Sodexo's food services.
- Had a sexual assault campaign meeting; discussed promotion, posters, etc. Maggie Forsythe and councillor Toner are both working hard on that.
- Red Awards is happening soon, working on that;
- The Clothing Buy and Sell is going well upstairs!

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6.3 Vice President Internal Chris McGinn

- This past Thursday, I met with the academic programming team. We discussed the Find your Space campaign, which highlights various study spaces around campus, including those people might not know about. Another event we talked about is a ‘networking event’, for campus societies to connect with students; this will provide an opportunity to give tips and advice for lower year students. Financial Services, Student Services, etc might attend too.
- I met with Nick Zildjan to discuss the U Cup. We’ll have free tickets to give out and do our best to hype it up.
- I met with senators Fernandez and Hamilton to go over the survey questions; they were very helpful, thank you!
- My meeting with Shawna Bergin has been pushed to this coming week.
- Student Disciplinary Code meeting coming up this Saturday.

6.4 Vice President (Interim) Advocacy Haley MacIsaac

- I met with the dietician on campus to discuss an Eating Disorder Awareness Week event. The body respect event we decided on will be happening on January 31st at 2pm in the SUB lobby!
- Met with Michael McDonald, the executive director of CASA, to discuss the upcoming AGM. Arrangements are almost complete!
- We’re still looking for volunteers for the UNBSU Instagram takeover! This could be a great opportunity to reach out to the student population, especially with elections coming up.
- I met with the mental health coordinator, we have lots of fun projects coming up.

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6.5 President Herbert Bempah

- Had a Student Services meeting;
- Had a Red Awards meeting – the nominations are live! I'd really appreciate it if you shared our video about it. All of you are also eligible for awards! This could turn into an exciting tradition at UNB.
- I met with our CRO to discuss the upcoming elections. Our hope of diverting from ITS and using a third party to host the election is not likely due to legal issues, but we're hoping to make it a possibility for that to happen in the future.
- I met with the Campus Food Strategy Group coordinator to revise our MOU. Next week everything should be settled, so we'll be ready to absorb the group in 2019.
- I met with the Saferide coordinators, expressed my support for them;
- I'm meeting with the Red and Black Revue coordinator tomorrow.
- About the repeating courses policy that we're working towards: I met with a student who talked about a similar problem of not being able to redo a grade. That conversation really showed me that this is an important issue as it's affecting many students.
- Also, we have a coffee house coming up on Tuesday! Come perform!

6.6 Inclusion Councillor Abram Lutes

- I'm not doing as much work as I would like, due to graduate applications and things.
- I've been working on the motions that were presented tonight;
- I made it out to the Women's March and met many UNB students there. I had some great conversations!
- I'm going to reschedule my office hours;

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- Councillor Jefferies and I are still trying to get the non-faculty committee up and running. If you haven't told him your availability, he will hunt you down.
- The Sustainability Fund committee met and concluded last week.

6.7 International Councillor Sushen Basak

- My office hours are now on Fridays from 10-11pm.
- My small project will be held March 17th – 18th in partnership with Multicultural Initiatives. It's a soccer tournament, open to all STU and UNB students! Signup will be happening soon on that.

6.8 Accessibility Councillor Parker Somerville

6.9 Residence Councillor Emily Meagher

6.10 Off-Campus Councillor Jonathan Lazarev

- I'm brainstorming my large project for this term; currently thinking about Townhouse mentors. Students living in residence have many mentors available to them in the form of proctors, older students, etc; this option is not available to Townhouse students. I'd like to make that resource available to off-campus students. I will present this idea at the next Townhouse meeting.
- I'm changing my office hours to 4-6pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.

6.11 Engineering Councillor Shanece Wilson (Via Emily McMillan)

- My upcoming councillor project: we're planning a Nursing and Engineering gala. Lots of work is going into it; Renaissance College may also be joining us!

6.12 Law Councillor Jill Pilgrim

- I don't know my office hours yet because of my schedule.

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- My big councillor project will be a Mental Health Week: Ludlow edition. It will be 3-4 days of various activities themed around mental health and self love.

6.13 Tea Fazio

- My office hours are now on Thursdays, from 11-12:30pm.
- I'm still investigating how to make our lounge accessible. We might be looking to renovate the lounge anyway, so I need to discuss this with our faculty. The lounge also needs further wired internet support, so we might be able to do all that within the renovations.

7. Announcements

7.1 Clothing Buy-and-Sell

Beirsto: Councillor Meagher needs help with the Clothing Buy-and-Sell upstairs, so volunteer if you can!

7.2 Sex Week Volunteers

McMillan: We're looking for Sex Week volunteers! It's occurring the week of Valentine's Day. Anyone interested?

Councillors Pilgrim, McLeod, VP MacIsaac and Beirsto, President Bempah, and senator Hamilton indicate interest in volunteering.

7.3 Law Society Charity Auction

Pilgrim: Shout-out to the Law School Society, their charity auction last night raised around \$5000 for the Canadian Mental Health Association. It was wild!

7.4 UNBSU Website

Cormier: The minutes on website need to be updated, and several councillor profiles still need to be edited.

Bempah: We're trying to work on that.

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7.5 Arts Matters Conference

Dykens: The Arts Matters conference is now open for abstracts! Please recommend it to your friends! We want to get a strong showing from our campus.

8. Question Period

Iyengar: How respectful do I have to be on the UNBSU Instagram takeover? Like, to the haters in general. Can I bash them?

Bempah: Keep it PG-13.

MacIsaac: You have full comedic liberty... Within reason.

Iyengar: Good enough. I volunteer.

McGinn: Can't wait, Seshu.

9. Other business arising from this meeting

McGinn: Councillor Pilgrim, feel free to reach out to our mental health coordinator to see if you can collaborate on the Ludlow Mental Health week.

10. Adjournment

Mover: Beriault

Second: Iyengar

Vote passes. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.