

Minutes - UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2022/2023

November 13, 2022; in-person meeting



Present:

- Kordell (virtual)
- Rose
- Annie
- Ridhi (virtual)
- Jill
- Isabella
- Warren
- Emily
- Keri
-
- Sarah
- Bradley
- Sean
- Jordan
- Abby
- Alexa
- Kartik
- Zach
- Sangeet
- Amy
- Kate
- Luc
- Gaia
- Heer

Not Present:

- Rayleh
- Minh
- Kisenge

Regrets:

- Amanda
- Molly
- Kianna
- Patrick
- Ally

Also present: Josh (Council Chairperson), Abby (Council Secretary), Drashtant (Council DCRO/CRO)

1. Call to Order

- Chairperson, Josh, calls the meeting to order at 7:03 PM ADT.

1.1. Roll Call

- Chairperson, Josh, performs roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Chair - Normally when we ratify election results, it's done in one motion. Given that there was an appeal in VP Finance and Operations, I separated the ratification of all positions so that we can discuss the appeal. If everyone thinks it would be best, we can keep the VP Finance and Operations ratification separate, and lump the rest of the ratifications together to shorten the agenda.
 - Jill - In the past, we have lumped all ratifications together, but I can see why you chose to do it this way. I'm open to putting them all together except for the VP Finance and Operations.
 - Luc - I motion to lump all of the ratifications of non-contested positions together.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda for November 13th, 2022 be amended to lump all election result ratifications together with the exclusion of VP Finance and Operations.
 - Mover: Luc
 - Seconder: Gaia
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote was done using unanimous consent. Motion carries.
- Chair - Did anyone have any amendments to the agenda, please raise your hand/placard.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda for November 13th, 2022 be approved.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Seconder: Jill
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote was done 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

- Chair - I don't have much for general remarks. In the email, I included a link for Councillor of the month. This is for the month of October, and all nonfaculty and faculty councilors can be considered. Please have it done by the end of this session. Did anyone have any problems accessing the link?

4. Approval of Previous Minutes - Report to Council (Quorum, October 23, 2022)

- Chair - When we last met, I think it was three weeks ago, we lost quorum about halfway through the session. So we decided to adjourn the meeting and host an informal conversation afterward so that we could continue with the agenda item as there was nothing to vote on. The secretary put together a report to collect the “minutes” for this informal discussion. Other than that, the minutes are relatively standard.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes and report from October 23rd, 2022 be approved.
 - Mover: Gaia
 - Secunder: Zach
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote was done using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

5. Substantive Business

5.1. Update from The Appeals Board - Gaurnash-Vipin Gupta Disqualification

- Chair - Due to the sensitive nature of item 5.1, we would like to move to a closed session as there are some people in the room that are involved in the subject matter. This will include all new members that haven't been ratified into their position, and the current VP Finance and Operations.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the council move to a closed session.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Secunder: Gaia
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote was done using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

5.2. Report of the Events and Results of the UNBSU November By-election

- Chair - Thank you for stepping out everyone. I feel bad inviting you guys to get ratified, and then kicking you out for the first item in Substantive Business. We'll be moving on now.
- Drashtant - The general timeline of the UNBSU By-election Nomination Period is summarized in a report made public to everyone. This report also explains the issues that were experienced during campaigning including an issue with respect to candidates sharing each other's campaign materials without opting to run as a slate, the campaign materials of VP Finance and Operations candidate Isabella Hallihan, the candidate Gauransh Vipin-Gupta, and a student unable to vote. The results of the election are summarized in the report, as well as the voter turnout. The recommendation of the CRO is that the results of the 2022-2023 UNBSU Fall By-Election be ratified, excluding the Vice President of Finance and Operations as presented for a term ending April 30, 2022.
- Chair - The report will be made public which Kordell and Drashtant have worked on. When it comes to voter percentage, I'd just like to have it known

that voter percentage is low in all other SUs across the country. It's not majorly concerning. Are there any other questions for Drashtant?

5.3. Resignation of Chief Returning Officer

- Jill - Our CRO at the moment is Kordell, this came about because of vacancies and there weren't many applicants. We voted to hand the role to Kordell, but due to a conflict of interest and that he doesn't necessarily want to be in that role, as well as that now we have Drashtant to rely on, Kordell is putting in his resignation of CRO.

5.4. Appointment of Drashtant Varma to the Role of Chief Returning Officer

- Jill - Drashtant is our current DCRO, and he has done a wonderful job filling this position so far. Given that our CRO, Kordell, resigned, we are looking to promote Drashtant to the position of CRO and attempt to fill DCRO.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that Drashtant Varma be appointed as Chief Returning Officer at the appointment of the UNBSU for the 2022/2023 year.
 - Mover: Jill
 - Secunder: Zach
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes unanimously. Motion carries.

5.5. Ratification of the Election Results - Vice President Finance and Operations

- Chair - Taking into consideration the closed session, we are going to separate this into two separate votes. One for the actual ratification and one for a referral to the Policy Committee that will be brought up. I'd just like to remind everyone that everything discussed in the closed session cannot be said in an open session.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the results of the November 2022 byelection not be ratified for the position of Vice President Finance and Operations based on the findings of the UNBSU Appeals Board.
 - Mover: Gaia
 - Secunder:
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes with some abstentions/against. Motion carries.
- Chair - A motion was made in the closed session to put forth the issue to policy. This is what we will be voting on now.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the exploration of the modification of the bylaws to allow for extended elections, budgetary extensions, and banning of running in future elections for the case of violating election bylaws be put to the Policy Committee.
 - Mover: Gaia
 - Secunder: Zach
 - Notes: No further discussion.

- The vote passes with 3 abstentions/against. Motion carries.

5.6. Ratification of the Election Results - Remaining Positions

- Chair - We decided to lump this into one motion as in previous elections. The chair will assume a motion to adopt the ratification to include all the below representatives to be ratified in one go: accessibility representative, inclusion representatives, first-year student representative, international student representative, management representative, education representative, engineering representative, kinesiology representative, and science representative.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that all voted representatives to be elected as their respective representative position according to the November 2022 byelection effectively immediately and lasting until the 2023 General Election.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Seconder: Zach
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes. Motion carries.
- Chair - Welcome and congratulations to all the new councilors!

5.7. Discussion among council - executive updates

- Gaia - Thank you! I do have a motion at the end of the discussion to bring up. I wanted to bring up a thing that happened a couple of weeks ago, so we missed out on the last meeting because no one had any agenda updates. I asked the executives to send a report anyways, and everyone in some capacity said no. Why is this?
- Jill - As happy as we are to provide those updates when necessary, it wasn't felt like this was an extended period of time. It was really only three weeks when we go the entirety of December without a meeting. It would be easy for us to lump our updates together, and if anyone had any concerns, they are always welcome to reach out to us specifically with that concern. There are other times in the year when we are breaking for an extended period of time, and we aren't expected in our job or bylaws.
- Annie - Technically, we also are not supposed to fulfill our office hours during the reading week so we felt if we sent out an update last week, not only would we be working, but we also wouldn't have much to update this Sunday.
- Gaia - Okay, thank you for your response. I had a slightly off-topic thing to bring up that I want everyone's opinion on. How does everyone feel about online voting vs. in-person voting?
- Isabella - I feel like I have been running for months at this point, and I think online voting is easier for people than in-person voting. Personally, I feel like we get more votes than we would otherwise
- Alexa - Have we ever done or considered doing hybrid voting? Having in-person polls would help remind people that we actually do have an election.

- Annie - I had this all over social media and very explicit posts about how to access the voting platform. I worked really hard personally to make sure we were getting as much reach as we could.
- Emily - Just out of curiosity, when was the last time we had a fully in-person vote, and what was the voter turnout like then?
- Gaia - I believe it was around 2014-2016 would be the last time, and I think the voter turnout was around 19%. The last time I was able to access for online was in 2018. We had a pretty good turnout prior to COVID.
- Jill - Yeah, I think based on the old e-Services system, there were older election things so it may have been there. I appreciate you bringing this forward because it's something I thought about a lot last year. Annie has done phenomenal work, but we will always have people that are distant.
- Gaia - I guess there is a concern with double voting with hybrid options but that's something that could be worked out in the future.
- Jill - We could have laptops present at the in-person voting so that it's all done on the same system, but there is an in-person component.

5.8. Faculty Councillor Updates

- Chair - To give an introduction to all the new people on what councilor updates are, basically each week we rotate between faculty and nonfaculty updates. We missed last week, so I thought about including both so that everyone can get an understanding and for ease for the missed session so we aren't combining too many weeks in one update.
- Warren - I don't have anything to add this week.
- Emily - I did my councilor project on the second, headshots down at RC, and was very easy to do. Great turnout, and lots of feedback from students. We want to do it again, and would highly recommend it if anyone was looking for something to do. Is anyone else struggling with EduRoam?
 - Annie and Rose - We were struggling the past few weeks in the SUB in particular.
- Keri - Had my counselor check in with the Chair, the only thing that was brought up as a concern was that the president put in a request for funding and got less than normal but that was a nonissue.
- - We had our Halloween Arts event on the 31st and it went really well, there wasn't a huge turnout as we've seen with everything post-COVID-19. I had my counselor check in with Jill and it was really productive.

5.9. Non-Faculty Councillor Updates

- Zach - Nothing to report.
- Sangeet - I'm still waiting on a response for the off-campus posters, and reached out to the townhouse representatives to cater to the off-campus students. And now I will be working on my councilor project.
 - Chair - What is your councilor project?
 - Sangeet - An information session about off-campus student rights, issues, and what people should keep in mind.

- Amy - There have been some residence events, I attended all that I could. RA's said most were successful but had little turnout. Started my councilor projects and started asking about the feasibility of the project with Res Life. I was reached out to by Joy Kidd about the hockey team, and the res houses that won their prizes are confused about how they get those prizes. Amanda is now figuring this out, and I want to throw it out there, the res houses like the events but there is a little bit of a disconnect because if they don't get the prizes they won't participate as much.
 - Jill - The O-Cup got stolen and is a very hard thing for us to repurchase every year. Sara Rothman wants to put the name of the winner on the plaque and when it comes back to campus, there was a decision that it won't be going to the houses to avoid this situation. I will connect with Amanda and Sara Rothman to take care of the money situation.
- Kate - The Women's Centre is holding an event in partnership with the MMFC and it is on November 29th for Family Violence Prevention month. I'll be there as the Women's Centre and as co-chair of the menstrual health society. As part of my councilor project, I just received 50 menstrual cups with DivaCares and am working on an open forum to distribute these to students with a need for sustainable products. I applied for the sustainability fund to ensure we can improve access to sustainable menstrual health products.

6. Reports to Council

6.1. Vice President - Communications

- Fixed the financial section of the website.
- Fixed student discount portion of the website.
- Added appeals form for Josh to the website.
- Updated the coordinator's section of the website.
- Updated services area of the website homepage.
- Updated campus calendar.
- Finalized and activated candidates' pages and posts.
- Updated the voting section of the website.
- Updated the banner for both the candidate's period and voting period.
- Created a "how to vote" post and giveaway post and promoted them throughout the period on stories.
- Updated the jobs portion of the website with the Academic Programming Coordinator.
- Updated and reuploaded the CRO job position.
- Added Orientation Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Created and posted hiring stories.
- Posted final advertisements for MP Tuesday and Policy Forum.
- Helped set up the Policy Forum event and MP Tuesday.
- Attended and photographed MP Tuesday and photos are in the drive.
- Attended and photographed Climate Change Policy Forum events and took photos.

- Updated graphics for next MLA Monday and MP Tuesday events.
- Updated all highlights on UNBSU Instagram to include “Advocacy” for better promotion of what we do.
- Went through photos for both events and distributed MP photos to Atwin.
- Designed a 19-page advocacy week document and stories with the advocacy asks for Instagram stories for the 7 days leading up to the event and met with Rose and Kordell surrounding this throughout the week.
- Posted advocacy week information in the news section of the website.
- Created all materials for the Ballroom Boo Bash (Eventbrite banner, posts, stories, and volunteer posts) and uploaded them.
- Attended the event to take photos alongside the videographer.
- Edited and posted photos from the event.
- Met with the STUSU to discuss all promotions for the Student Run Business Fair.
- Designed and posted the finance week schedule, and coordinated the creation of events stories with the graphic designer.
- Posted and edited photos for the sustainability week.
- Created and distributed 2 newsletters.
- Made a post for the deadline to withdraw from classes.
- Attended executive meeting to give updates.
- Met with the Townhouse Coordinator to aid with promotional material.
- Onboarded graphic designer.
- Organized and updated Canva organization to be more efficient for the graphic designer to find and create material.

6.2. Vice President - Research and Policy

- I finished the advocacy document and took part in a meeting with David Emerson about it. I also took part in meetings with Kordell about logistics for advocacy week many times. I'd like to shout out to Annie for designing the advocacy document.
- I spent all of the last reading week doing meetings both in person throughout Fredericton and Moncton as well as online with meetings. We have with scheduled meetings almost 25 meetings!
- Meetings went super well and we had the chamber discussing one of our policies with Jenica Atwin.
- Met with Senator of Canada Pierrette Ringuette, MP Jenica Atwin, Premier Higgs, MLA David Coon, Knowledge Carrier-in-Residence Jeannie Bartibogue, Minister for Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour Trevor Holder, MP Ginette Petitpas Taylor who is Minister of Official Languages for Canada who was formally the Minister of Health for Canada, Bonnie Lipton-Bos the National Manager for the Canadian Mental Health Associations Peer Support Program, Fredericton Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Kate Rogers, city councilors, UNB counseling services, UNB Administration, and many more!

- I created gift bags for everyone which included mugs, pins, pens, and thank-you notes.
- I have been planning out a bit more for MLA Monday
- I helped Jill with the research commons presentation last week.
- I organized and did 4 hours of training sessions with volunteers for advocacy week.
- Chat re: Deferred Maintenance + Environment policy with CASA.
- Session 1: CASA Consultation on Environmental Sustainability
- I did an E-Vote For Policy Committee on Policies that were approved by CASA.
- I organized and carried out a policy forum which was a success. It lasted around 2 hours and I presented on climate policy for around 20 minutes. We had speakers from the city council, MLA David Coon, Profs from UNB and STU, and organizations on campus.
- I helped out with the Boo Bash.

6.3. Vice President - Finance & Operations

- Have been working on the hiring of the orientation chairs for the 2022/2023 year with Miriam, we have been remaking the hiring questions and meet tomorrow to start the hiring process
- Attended a SERC meeting
- Met with a few different clubs in regards to questions they had about the funding process
- Have been working with the Clubs & Societies coordinator
- Hiring the REDs chair award (no one has applied yet)
- Started for sponsorships
- Designed a sponsorship package
- Helped at Boo Bash

6.4. Vice President - Academic

- To cover things broadly from the last few weeks I have lumped some meetings together. A few weeks ago Kordell and I met with the president of the Law Students Society (LSS), and we had a really productive discussion. It was really helpful to provide insight into accessibility concerns students are having on campus with physical changes that need to be made, as well as accessibility concerns around programs that we use such as the one used for course registration. I'd like to thank our Law Councillor Warren for also bringing forward these conversations and working with the LSS to advocate on behalf of Law students.
- I attended Rose's policy event, which was very well done.
- I also volunteered at the boo bash.
- I spent some time making Halloween treat bags for the council, which you folks will receive tonight since we haven't met since Halloween.
- I made new student appointments for committees since we gained new student senators.

- Approved the draft document sent out for the Senate Review Committee, based on a hearing I participated in back in September. This will be presented at Senate on the 22nd.
- I have attended a few nominating committee meetings in the past few weeks.
- I also prepared to have discussions with committee members as there were discussions about removing student reps from search committees, but this was not passed through.
- I attended meetings of SS&P before reading week and did the necessary prep for that meeting.
- I have attended two bookstore advisory meetings.
- I organized the study hall in the research commons with Mattia from the HIL.
- I attended the study hall and gave a presentation on the operations of the UNBSU and the work we do for students.
- I have met with the Dean of Libraries twice to discuss services offered within the library for faculty, as well as to discuss efforts around OERs and work the UNBSU can do with the library.
- I have additionally been having conversations regarding the extended library hours with some of the Librarians and the Dean, which will be happening tomorrow (November 14), which is a win for us as this was a large advocacy effort in past years.
- I had a meeting with a councilor to discuss their role and concerns they had regarding the council.
- I sent out the check-in bookings today for council members.
- I have also reached out to the incoming Council members to discuss and book the councilor transition. This will likely be occurring next Sunday before the council.
- Have met with one of the incoming student senators to discuss how the Senate operates.
- We are still currently hiring an Academic Programming Coordinator, which would be really beneficial to this role, so if you have friends interested in getting involved please share this with them.
- I additionally would like to share with Council a personal decision that I have made, this decision wasn't made lightly, and has been something that I have considered for a long period of time. On Thursday, I gave Kordell notice of my resignation from the position of VP academic, as of November 25th. I have absolutely loved the work that I have done in this role since May, but unfortunately, that work has become increasingly difficult to enjoy and complete, as the environment that I work in has made it necessary for me to leave this position. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for support in the next two weeks, I care about the work you are doing and I want to be here to support you.

6.5. Vice President - Student Wellness

- First off, congratulations and welcome to our new council members! I am excited to work with you all. And, I hope you had a relaxing reading week.
- I had various meetings with different stakeholders (like CPA Canada, IBEC, faculty members, and RBC) who we are collaborating with for Finance Week. We have a week filled with panels and workshops lined up. Tomorrow we have an event with CPA Canada at 4:30 PM at the Data Visualization Lab at HIL. Kindly, keep an eye out for the Finance week events.
- I attended the Teaching Awards Committee
- Had a meeting with the Positive Mental Health Team Coordinator to brainstorm ideas for wellness week and discuss our collaboration.
- I had a meeting with Tim from Sodexo for collaboration on a few events for Finance Week
- I had been in touch with Annie, our VP of Communications, regarding Finance Week promotions.
- I had a meeting with our wellness coordinator to discuss our wellness week document and ideas.
- I emailed student groups - BAUS, Enactus, and UNB Finance Club to help us spread the word about Finance Week events and to share volunteer opportunities.
- I also met with Matt and Becky from the SUB Office to discuss the events' logistics for Finance Week.
- I attended the training session for Advocacy week. I would like to take a second to congratulate Rose, VP of Research and Policy, for the success of Advocacy week and the amazing work she did!
- I attended a couple of pre-meetings and meetings for the advocacy week.
- If you have any questions, then please let me know. Thanks!
- Announcement - please keep an eye out for the link to our volunteer sheet for Finance Week. If you are available, then please attend. The responsibilities are primarily assisting with set up and reset.

6.6. President

- I read through the National Student Financial Aid Policy Manual, in preparation for my presentations to the National Advisory Group on Student Financial Aid and the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on Student Financial Aid. I also finished my speaking notes for this presentation and had a 3-hour long overview meeting of the program with Trevor and Mackenzy from CASA to be as well-versed as we could be.
- I also met with Karen and Miriam regarding orientation hiring - ensuring we were aligned on the salaries for the Orientation Chair and Orientation Vice Chair, as well as were in agreement on start and end dates.
- I worked on my presentation for Advocacy Week training and had a couple of check-in meetings with Rose to ensure we were on the same page, as I was going to be out of the office the following week.

- In my role as CRO, I had a meeting with Josh and Drashtant regarding some very initial onboarding. I also approved campaign materials, finalized the ballot, answered questions, and worked on sharing information about the elections.
- This week, I headed to Ottawa for my presentations with CASA to NAGSFA and ICCSFA. I had a preparation meeting with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), our co-presenter for the NAGSFA meeting. I then had a follow-up preparation meeting with Mackenzy and James, to make sure we were on the same page.
- I had two interviews regarding the elimination of NB student loan interest. One was with CBC, and another was with Brunswick News.
- On Tuesday, November 1, I attended NAGSFA. It was a full-day meeting, where we did a one-and-a-half-hour presentation, and then had a significant amount of discussion regarding policy changes different stakeholders were advocating for with respect to the federal student loan system. At this committee was Chris Ferguson, New Brunswick's Director of Student Financial Services (the main administrator of the Student Financial Aid program), and was a great opportunity to network with Chris and discuss NB-specific issues. Also in the room was Lorna Campbell from UNB, who is the Coordinator of Adult Learning Services, and it was a fantastic opportunity to share with her, and learn more about her role in federal student advocacy.
- I attended SS&P, the Fredericton Affordable Housing Committee, and the President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability.
- As well, I met with Mackenzy and James to make adjustments from the NAGSFA presentation to be better tailored to ICCSFA - we took the feedback we heard and implemented it into the presentation. We then attended ICCSFA, and this was just us presenting for an hour with some questions and answers. This had SFA administrators from provinces and territories across the country. Although she was not present in the meeting at that time, Shelley Clayton from UNB was also in Ottawa for ICCSFA work.
- I also attended the advocacy week training session, which went really well! The delegates were quite engaged and asked lots of questions.
- This week was our advocacy week! There were a ton of meetings (I believe around 15-18 scheduled, and more over the coming weeks). The meetings I attended were all really productive and insightful. I attended meetings with UNB Senior Administration, Rachel Brown from PETL, Jason Lejeune - our city councilor, Kate Rogers - our Mayor, Premier Higgs & Minister Holder & Deputy Minister Mills, the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations, and the Treasury Board.
- As Advocacy Week was ending, I left for Montreal, to attend a Union d'Etudiants en Quebec (UEQ - or QSU in English) which is the NBSA equivalent for Quebec. They are partners with CASA, which give CASA exclusive representation to 100,000 students in Quebec and legitimize CASA

as a truly federal advocacy group. The conference was Friday afternoon, Saturday all day, and Sunday morning to early afternoon, and there were interesting presentations on student mental health, graduate students, eco-anxiety, and much more!

- Lastly, Rose and I connected with Alex from STUSU regarding submitting a bid to host a CASA conference next year on our campus. I also reached out to NBCC Fredericton Student Association, the NBCCD Student Association, and the Maritime College of Forest Technology Student Association regarding their advocacy work and potential to collaborate. College students have a really unique and well-equipped voice when it comes to work-integrated learning and skills development, among other topics. I also connected all of these student associations with Chris Ferguson from NB Student Loans to ensure they have knowledge of who Chris is and can build a relationship.

7. Announcements

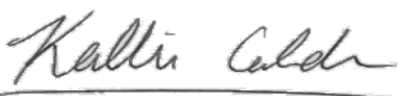
- Ridhi - I just want to reiterate that Finance Week is Monday through Friday with a bunch of food to encourage turnout! Bring your friends!
- Jill - Just a reminder, I am here to support you folks and am very passionate about the work the council does. Please don't hesitate to reach out.
 - Rose - Jill has been an amazing person to work with and has dedicated everything to this role and has been an amazing person here supporting everyone. So thank you.
 - Isabella and Ridhi - I second that.
- Chair - I will make the formal announcement based on some reports that will be published on the website later, I will announce that there will be another election announced. Due to circumstances, we will be reopening that position as a continuation. For some quick details that I can speak about, the election will have three candidates where the campaign period for this election will start on Tuesday, November 15th, the polling period will be put up on the website on the 16th at midnight, and open for one week being closed on the 23rd pending that the election results will be ratified on the 27th. Drashtant and I will be looking more into those details.

8. Other Business

- No other business.

9. Adjournment

- Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU Council Meeting be adjourned at 8:28 PM ADT
- Mover: Chair assumed
- Seconder: Jill
- Notes: No further discussion.
- The vote was done using unanimous consent. Motion carries.


Secretary


President