

AGENDA – UNBSU Council Meeting



UNB Student Union 2021/22

November 14, 2021, Tilley Room 303 or by zoom.

7pm Council Meeting

Regrets: Khanh Nguyen

Absent: Meghan Budd, Ariel Lee, Kianna Bear-Heatherington

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, calls the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

1.1 Roll Call

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, performs the roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 037-21

That Council approves the agenda.

Motion to Approves the Agenda

Mover: Seth Eichhorst

Seconder: Kordell Walsh

The motion passes.

3. Chair's Remarks

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, makes the remarks by stating, "We are going to try to do a few motions through unanimous consent."

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Resolution 038-21

***That** Council approves the previous minutes.*

Motion to Approve the Previous Minutes

Mover: Sangeeth Mylatt Veetil

Seconder: Houda El Hajjaoui

The motion passes.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Fall 2021 Election Report, as well as a document outlining specific recommendations stemming from the report.

Chief Returning Officer, Will Seely, states, "As all of you know we had by elections. A report has been circulated. A few items that I would like to go into detail on are the results that will need to be ratified and the issues that were in the report. And I will go through

the issues- unofficial. So, we had our elections end on Friday and results only posted on Monday because IT Services didn't work on the weekends. I have a recommendation, so we don't run into this issue again. We had on the first day of the voting – a student was unable to vote. Even though UNBSU added part time students and the communication to IT Services wasn't done and they didn't know. That resulted in part time students only being able to vote beginning noon of Tuesday. I only had 2 people reach out with issues and they were promptly added to the voter list. Unfortunately, there were students who did not reach out, and we likely turned away some part time voters who tried to vote before Tuesday. Issue no. 3. For the position of Renaissance College Councillor, the name was written as Stacie Simon rather than Emily Simon, so once we recognized that issue, we sent out a mass email to RC students informing them that because the election had been posted, we could not make changes to the names, and therefore any votes cast for Stacie Simon will be counted for Emily Simon. In terms of that we didn't have a lot of people running out. The voter turnout, we had an eligible list of 5532. 9.3% voter turnout, that resulted in 1.3% increase. For my experience, that is something UNBSU to promote. Even with part time student, the will of the eligible voters is clear. I think UNBSU can move forward with these results. Quickly going over the changing when voting ends, bylaw campaigning period throughout ballot period. Those recommendations should go lot policy committee first."

Resolution 039-21

That Council ratifies the results of byelections as presented by CRO.

Mover: Seth Eichhorst

Seconder: Brennan Marks

The motion passes.

Resolution 039-21

That Council tasks Policy Committee with recommendations provided by CRO.

Mover: Houda El Hajjaoui

Seconder: Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald

The motion passes.

5.2 NBSA Discussion

President, Kordell Walsh, states, "On the topic of NBSA, the last year council went through the process of reviewing the NBSA on financial concerns and financial mismanagement. At the end of last year, council had chosen to strike the NBSA line from the budget, effectively choosing to leave the NBSA. Ultimately, the decision to not leave the NBSA had to be made, as after discussing with the NBSA, concerns were raised regarding the deadline in their bylaws to withdraw had passed and it didn't make any sense to leave it and risk spending that money on an

unnecessary legal battle. The legal battle would also cost us in public perception. My recommendation would be to conduct second review and striking an ad-hoc committee, consulting past directors and stakeholders who might have a relationship with NBSA to speak on the performance of NBSA over the years. Where last year's decision was unanimous, it does not feel right to leave it at that and not try to honour the decision in some capacity.

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, questions "You mentioned financial mismanagement. Could you elaborate on that?"

President, Kordell Walsh, responds "The NBSA has a roughly \$80,000 budget, we pay them roughly half of that, I believe 48%. There is a disconnect between our students and the NBSA, and while not perfect still there is a much stronger connection with CASA, both in terms of knowing the organization and the perceived impact. Another thing is that the executive director doesn't have a financial background. This year, we are also 6 months into the term and have yet to receive our bylaw mandated quarterly financial report. So, it was just concerns over such a large sum of money being allocated to directors who don't have a financial background, for an organization that students don't feel they get value out of. \$40,000 is a lot, and in the past we have felt we can do more with that money ourselves."

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, says, “do have to do an investigation? Can we not take last year’s report and move it ahead a bit quicker and share the report with council?”

President, Kordell Walsh, states, “Sharing of the report is an oversight on my part, I didn’t think of it until the deadline to submit for today had passed, but I can get it to you folks for next week. I think taking last year’s report and taking the recommendations and see how the organization has changed would work too. So, just reviewing the recommendations.”

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds, “the NBSA were given those recommendations as well.”

Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, “The recommendations were strong, and the executive director’s contract is up this year. That is another conversation we can have this year. Under new management, maybe we would consider staying, but that wasn’t a conversation we could have last year because they were on a two-year contract. This year they could be replaced.”

Senator, Luc Bouvier, says, “To provide context. In general, a sense among council over the last few years has been that we don’t get our money’s worth out of the organization. There has also been a lack of

accountability from the executive director on behalf of NBSA constituents. We've been through this many times, we've consulted with the NBSA, I just don't think it's the best use of our time to do another full review."

President, Kordell Walsh, voices, "Yes, thank you for the insight, Luc. Another piece of context is that the deadline is March 1st. We need to let the NBSA know that we plan to vote on any recommendation at least 2 weeks ahead of time, meaning we will need to have decisions ready by mid-February at the latest. It's going to have to be something short and sweet. And with exams and the break coming up, as well as working with folks schedules, you're right that a full review may not work this year."

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, states, "Is there a coordination between UNB Saint John campus, STU, Mount Allison University?"

President, Kordell Walsh, says, "Ultimately it's up to the organization to set their own priorities, so some have chosen to vote in favor of raising student fees at the NBSA, some may not have the money to do this on their own. Relatively different from school to school. We have made them aware, but I haven't asked if they have the same concerns or are leaving the NBSA. Does that answer your question?"

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, states, "Kind of. I just meant it would be nice to let them know this is what we're doing so they have a heads up."

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, says, "We are half their budget. When we let them know last year, it almost seemed like they are used to us doing this which is concerning."

Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, says "Kordell will reach out to other schools. It will give them the opportunity to do their own review if they want."

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, comments, "If this has been going on for 2 years, then this will be right choice."

President, Kordell Walsh, says, "Rather than having an ad-hoc committee, can I suggest that we task this to advancement committee? They can review this as a long-term strategic partnership, but that will also cover the need for us to review how we plan to advocate for students, especially to provincial governments."

Resolution 040-21

That Council task Advancement Committee with reviewing the recommendations of last year's NBSA review.

Mover: Seth Eichhorst

Seconder: Jillian Carson

The motion passes.

5.3 Faculty Councillor Updates.

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, states, “no updates”.

Computer Science Councillor, Spencer MacDonald, says, “no updates.”

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, comments, “I have been in contact with the administration assistant regarding my plan. I asked her about the PAL center. The issue here is that the faculty of science doesn’t provide first year engineering courses. We will need to figure out if either the two faculties will be able to make a joined or their own.”

Kinesiology Councillor, Abbie Delaney, says, “no updates.”

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

Vice President Communications, Niko Coady, says, "Hi everyone! I hope you had a wonderful reading week. I have finished the student savings page and its on the website. I attended a few like conference sessions on AntiRacism session. Hillary Nguyen did a fantastic job. I worked on graphics that went up today. SUB entrances and back. Matt from SUB just about poster sale. Possible do a give away. I sent out the newsletter. I got with Meredith with some deigns for stickers and pins for 1785. I am resigning. It was Friday but I wanted to come and give updates. I will me with whoever is hired."

6.2 Vice President - Student Life

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, states, "On Saturday, I attended the Alumni Council and I provided them student life updates and some ways the associated alumni can help us in keeping student life vibrant. The breakfast program is from 8:45-10:45 every Monday now, you can volunteer for that and have it count towards your honoraria requirement. I am making that list of events for you folks and I will have it for you in the next council. I had a couple of meetings one called Payd – a student debt crushing company, and they want us to promote them. Also Cano and it is reusable food dishes and coffee cups, etc. They're already available on campus in

collaboration with Sodexo. You use these reusable containers, scan a QR code, and if you return them on time you pay nothing and you get rewards for being sustainable. So, hopefully more to come. We have finance week this week, we are having bingo tomorrow. We also have a CAP night coming up which will give students some savings. We have a Lunch n Learn Shelley Clayton on SUB103 on Thursday. We are also doing giveaways for two Sobeys gift cards.”

6.3 Vice President - Finance and Operations

Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, “I had my first and second finance committee and it will be seen weekly. For the last few months, clubs and societies have been receiving their funding pretty quickly because I have been approving them as they come in, but I have notified them that funding will be granted on a week-by-week basis now. There were a handful of event approvals. The event application form is very sensitive to special characters so I helped a few clubs with that. One of the society has been looking to call a room their own so Kordell and I have been helping with that. I started a document that has clubs on ratified for this year. I sent an update to RisingYouth for the grant. There are quite a few positions that would need to be

hired so that is going out this week. I couldn't get in to see Karen because of Reading Week. So next council meeting, I will be presenting the budget. I will reach out to the Women's Centre now and let them know Kate is the womens rep and can replace me on the board."

6.4 President

President, Kordell Walsh, reports, "It's been a long three weeks. I had academic planning committee, NBSA document review committee to review NBSA governing policy. So we had an initial discussion on which documents we were going to prioritize. I had SS&P a couple of times, met with David Emerson, the special advisor to the President for government and we just talked about how things have been and the NBSA. I took a vacation day. I had a NBSA board meeting. I met with Gillian Mclean and some other folks to talk about potential collaboration between UNBSU and Finals at UNB. The administration runs Finals @ UNB through exam period to promote wellness so we thought that might be a good partnership. I also had meetings to talk about therapy dogs, and how to make those events COVID compliant. I met with Ojaswi to talk about transition into the role. I am working on a proposal for interim Councillors to present to Policy. Essentially it would let us

appoint councillors who would have speaking rights and not voting rights to fill council. This would be good for more student voice, but also avoid taking away the voting rights of those who are elected. These interim councillors could be eligible for honoraria as well. I also have been working with Kianna and Violet to discuss funding for the Indigenous Student Society as they have found a space they can call their own. The goal is to fund them like the 203 and Women center and then I think that's it primarily. To bounce off Katlynn's last point, we will be extending VP communications, and opening townhouse coordinator, council secretary, and red awards chair applications. The NBSA is also opening applications to be a delegate for advocacy week. So lots of volunteer and paid positions will be available."

7. Question Period

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, says, "No questions."

8. Announcements

Vice President Finance and Operations, Katlynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, "Just with the hiring, share stuff on social media. We do want

to increase engagement on hiring. And sometime people just don't want to reach out first so it makes it a bit easier if someone they know is sharing it."

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds, "This Saturday is TransDay Remembrance. There is an event on STU Campus at 3PM."

Vice President Finance and Operations, Katlynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, "Also come to BINGO"

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, asks, " What time?"

Vice President Finance and Operations, Katlynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, "Its at 7 PM tomorrow."

9. Other Business

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, states, "Since no one else has anything else to say."

10. Adjournment

Resolution 041-21

That Council adjourns the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Mover: Brennan Marks

Secunder: Seth Eichhorst

The vote passes unanimously.