

## **MINUTES – 6th UNBSU Council Meeting**

UNB Student Union 2020/21

*November 1st, 2020; 7:02 PM via Zoom*

*Absent: Camryn Smith*

*Regrets: Mia Scalabrin*



### **1. Call to Order**

*Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair, calls the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.*

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

*Aodhan Murphy performs roll call.*

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

#### **Resolution 035-20**

*That Council adopts the agenda for November 1st, 2020*

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

**The motion is carried.**

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

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

#### **Resolution 036-20**

*That Council approve the minutes for the meeting of October 25th, 2020.*

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Katelynn Pickel-Macdonald, Women's Councillor

**The motion is carried.**

### **5. Substantive Business**

#### **5.1 By-Elections/Referendum Discussion**

Sean Mackenzie, President: "This will be more focused on the by-elections as I do not have all the information I expected regarding the referendum. I hope to have this discussion ready by our next meeting. Our CRO is here to give some updates on the by-elections, so I will move to provide our CRO, Seth Corner, with speaking rights."

**Resolution 037-20**

*That Council gives Seth Corner speaking rights on agenda item 5.1.*

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

**The motion is carried.**

Seth Corner, Chief Representative Officer: "Everything so far is on track for the by-elections. However, I have a question for the Council and am looking for recommendations. The second bylaw talks about how the CRO must extend the nomination period for positions not filled by seven days. Because there is a limited timeframe with this by-election, under 9E of our bylaws, the date we have our by-election closing on, we would be unable to move it an additional week. I want to gauge Council's opinion on shortening that period, just for this election, to about three or four days. That way, it gives us enough time to get the information to ITS and then we are also not conducting the election outside of the timeframe listed in the bylaws. I am looking for the Council's opinion on that if we are to create a temporary regulation on that."

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Can you repeat what the regulation is?"

Seth Corner: "What I am proposing would be a temporary regulation around number 24 of the second bylaw. So instead of extending the nomination period to seven days, I was thinking maybe three or four days."

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "I think I am still confused as to what exactly you mean. So nominations are open for seven days, but you want to shorten it?"

Seth Corner: "No, so this is if someone does not apply for a role. The bylaws state that I have to extend that timeframe in that situation by seven days. To do this, we would be pushing parts of the election and going over the time slot stated in section 9 of the bylaws. That is why I am looking to shorten only the extension period so that elections can finish on time.

Aodhan Murphy: "While a temporary regulation would make it more clear what you would be doing, it would not be necessary because it is impossible to comply with either side of the bylaws regarding extension and keeping within the timeframe. You have to be reasonable about it.

Putting it in writing is always a good idea. Just for everyone's information, bylaws state, 'If by the end of the nomination one or fewer nominations have been filed for an available position, the CRO must extend the nomination period for these positions during the election. by seven days.'

What Seth is trying to say is that he wants to shorten this to three or four days if no one applies for a particular position."

Sean Mackenzie, President: "I think it is reasonable."

## **5.2 Councillor Updates**

*Annaka Roscoe, Off-campus Councillor, sat on the Internal Affairs Committee and Policy Committee.*

*Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor, also sat on the Internal Affairs Committee.*

*Fareeha Quayyum, Inclusion Councillor, attended the Policy Committee meeting and reached out to the Human Rights Office to discuss her Councillor project.*

*Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women's Councillor, sat on the board meeting for the Women's Centre. They discussed whether the Centre would stay open and their opinions on the Women's Representative position's change.*

*Nihla Hussain, International Student Councillor, sat on the Student Life and Awards Committee. She has also been working on her councillor project. She will be meeting with the International Student Society and Multicultural Initiative this week.*

*Mia Scalabrin, the Accessibility Counsellor, sent in her updates before the meeting. She attended a meeting for Wellness Week to brainstorm workshops and ideas. She had a great meeting with Melissa to discuss her councillor project. She will be reaching out to the Easter Seals New Brunswick, a non-profit organization for those with disabilities. She will also be reaching out to UNB's Best Buddies to introduce herself and hopefully collaborate with them shortly.*

### **5.3 Second Reading of Amended By-laws**

Sean Mackenzie, President: "This is the second vote to approve the bylaws. Since we went over these last week, I will not repeat the same changes. I hope everyone has taken the time to read over the amended bylaws. Before I make the motion to approve the second reading, I will take any questions."

#### **Resolution 038-20**

*That Council approves the second reading of the amended by-laws.*

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

**The motion is carried.**

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Written in the bylaws, with this amendment is that a letter would need to be presented to the Student Union. Earlier today, with the thought that the second reading would be approved, I was sent a letter from the Indigenous Student Council, notifying me that Breanna Andrews would be officially taking on the role of the Indigenous Student Councillor."

#### **5.4 New Brunswick Student Alliance**

Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy: "I wanted to let you all know that Sean and I will be attending the NBSA Lobby Season from November 16th to the 30th. We are looking for a maximum of three delegates to attend with us. Students will also be allowed to attend. We are looking for students who are passionate about advocacy and policy-making. There will be a training session provided on November 14th. This event will be entirely online. We need to know by November 5th if you are interested in attending."

#### **5.5 Councillor Meeting Dates Discussion**

Grace Pelkey: "This will not need a motion; however, I wanted to bring this up to Council because it is in regards to our meetings. With the changes to the start of the winter 2021 semester, I am looking at cancelling the scheduled meeting for January 10th as classes will not start until January 11th. Sean, Seth, and I have discussed adding a council meeting on a Thursday. We are thinking of December 10th. This date would allow the by-election results to be ratified before the holiday break to avoid having to go almost a month without a VP Advocacy. If there are any concerns regarding this, please let me know. I will ensure that that meeting will not affect your honorarium. December 10th is a Thursday and is the last day of classes. The next day is a reading day, so there will not be exams that day."

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "I may have a confliction with that date; however, I will provide you with more information."

### **6. Reports to Council**

#### **6.1 Vice President – Communications**

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: "This week, I have been working heavily with the Student Experience Team. Our main goal is to create engaging content for students

residing in Fredericton and different content for students outside of the City. These two groups of students may be having very different challenges. The Student Experience Team wants to put together virtual challenges to get students out of the house. For example, they are creating hashtags to get students out of their bedrooms where they have spent the majority of their time. We are also putting together study tips that will be up on our website and videos posted to social media pages.

- We had a lengthy executive meeting this week.
- During my office hours, I have been sitting down to think about ways to increase our social media following. For example, we currently have 2.8k followers on IG, which should have increased. I have been discussing with Adriana about receiving funds to promote more giveaways. The executive team and I have discussed prizes and other engaging things we can make available to students.
- I attended the Arts Teaching Awards Committee.
- With the rest of my spare time, I've dedicated myself to preparing for by-elections.

## **6.2 Vice President – Student Life**

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life: "I have done my coordinator check-ins this week. During the check-in with my Food Coordinator, we planned to film the rest of the videos, but something came up, and we could not. We plan to do this next week instead. On the other hand, Brennan (ACE coordinator) and I polished the timeline, so now we have a better idea of deadlines. One thing we need to get out of the way is updating any documentation regarding DrinkSmart to reflect the new changes.
- As Deanna mentioned, we had an extensive executive meeting this week.
- Thankfully we have received more applicants for SafeRide. Sean, Liz, and I interviewed three more individuals and will be onboarded in two days maximum.

- I had my Student Life Awards Committee meeting this past week to iron out programming, events and gauge what sort of changes could be made to the existing ideas. I will send the agenda for our other meeting this week, which will cover services.
- Lastly, Melissa and I plan to film the videos later this week for our "Study with Me" sessions, which will be released during reading week."

### **6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations**

- Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "It may be harder to get in contact with me outside of my office hours as I am without a computer right now.
- I met with Sara Rothman again to discuss her ideas on student engagement.
- I met with Niko to discuss organizing ways in which we can thank our RedShirts. We typically would host a banquet to thank them, but we cannot afford to do a banquet this year due to COVID-19.
- We had a few lengthy executive meetings.
- I went over operational plans for SB CERP for events. I also had to help one of the clubs create their operational plan.
- I met with the administration to discuss messaging for gathering safely during Halloween. I also had a few interactions with the Fredericton Police regarding parties happening this weekend in the student area.
- I put some stuff together regarding online event guidelines. I had to go through SB CERP for this as well.
- Finally, I am working through issues with the University Budget Advisory Committee."

### **6.4 Vice President – Internal**

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "This week, I met with a few councillors and chatted about projects.
- I also reached out to all of you to get your photos for the website. If you have not sent this yet, please do as soon as possible.

- I created a list of student concerns for the semester, which I will be sending over to the academic sub-committee.
- I have been reviewing the chosen name policy that I have a meeting for this coming week.
- I have set up accessibility training for the executives.
- I have reached out to a provider for NARCAN.
- I have been working on the survey that I mentioned last week. It will be going out the week after Reading Week.
- I have been going through old documents about Fall Reading Week. Since it is a pilot project, it comes to an end this year, but I have a meeting about it to catch up on this topic.
- I have been reaching out to the stakeholders of the Internal Affairs Committee. I want to get their feedback on the changes we would like to make. "

## **6.5 Vice President – Advocacy**

- Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy: "I met with the Multicultural Initiatives Coordinator. I want to get ideas for events we can collaborate on.
- I met with Niko to go over the Diversity Action Plan and discuss her concerns regarding the Orientation Constitution.
- I met with the Health and Wellness Committee to discuss the sexual assault policy.
- I attended the bi-weekly NBSA meeting with Sean.
- Met the Accessible Education Committee to understand better the work that they have been doing.
- I met with the National Advocacy Committee to work on an on-going campaign.
- I have been preparing for feedback for Advocacy Month.
- I moderated the Intersectionality Panel. I want to note that that was a fantastic session.



- With the help of Vishnu, I had the first Wellness Committee meeting. We brainstormed event ideas for Wellness Week. I will be meeting with Deanna next week to strategize these ideas further.
- Mia and I met to work on her Councillor project.

## **6.6 President**

- Sean Mackenzie, President: "I attended a student COVID messaging meeting, a small workgroup that clears any confusion regarding what the government is giving as guidelines. That was between Student Services, Marketing, and Communications.
- I attended the Academic Planning Committee.
- I also attended the David Coon Office Hour, which was about academics in a virtual semester.
- I met with the UNB HR Office.
- I attended the NBSA meeting along with Melissa Ghanem.
- I had a few meetings about the by-elections with Seth Corner.
- I conducted three SafeRide interviews along with Vishnu and Liz (SafeRide Coordinator)
- I met with the Accessible Education workgroup.
- I attended a CASA Mock Advocacy meeting or lobby meeting session.
- I met with Deanna to talk about promotions, as November will be very busy for her.
- I attended the Fredericton Self-isolation Committee, focusing on student plans for those coming back to Fredericton internationally and domestically. "

*Aodhan Murphy closes reports to the Council.*

## **7. Announcements**

## **8. Question Period**

## **9. Other Business**

## **10. Adjournment**

**Resolution 039-20**

*That Council adjourns the meeting.*

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor

**The motion is carried.**

**The meeting is adjourned at 7:30 PM.**

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_