**AGENDA – UNBSU Council Meeting**

UNB Student Union 2021/22

November 21, 2021, Tilley Room 303 or by zoom.

7PM Council Meeting

1. **Call to Order**

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, calls the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

* 1. Roll Call

Chair, Matthew Gysbers, performs roll call.

1. Approval of Agenda

**Resolution 042-21**

***That*** *Council approves the agenda.*

Mover: Kordell Walsh

Seconder: Seth Eichhorst

The motion passes.

1. **Chair’s Remarks**

Chair, Matt Gysbers, states “I made a mistake and didn't see the email with the minutes from last week so I can get them sent out to everyone on time. So we will have them included for next week. I apologize.”

1. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

**Deferred to next meeting.**

1. **Substantive Business**

**5.1 Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign**

**Guest, Rose He, presents:** Um, so I guess I could get started now. Yep. Right, so my name is Rose. I'm a second year electrical engineering student here at the University of New Brunswick, and I'm leading the fossil fuel divestment campaign here, and I'm just going to talk a bit about what divestment is and what we're looking for, hopefully from the Student Union. So to begin with, I'm just going to go over the climate crisis a little bit, just to sum it up. And it's agreed upon by a climate scientist supported by international agreements that we must keep below a rise of temperature of two degrees above pre-industrial levels with an aim to keep it below one point five degrees in order to effectively mitigate the climate crisis. And we can reach this target by investing in renewable energy in drastically reducing the use of fossil fuels. But to do so, it's approximated that roughly up to 80 percent of the world's known fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground, and we are truly running out of time. Recent reports from the International Panel of Climate Change released that we are already beginning to see the effects of climate change through drought, heat waves, sea level rise, ocean acidification events that would be unprecedented for years. The UN called this a code red for humanity. The greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at risk. So it's up to us as a society to decide how much we will at climate change accelerate.

So this brings me into fossil fuel divestment. A fossil fuel divestment is the removal of investments in fossil fuel companies and the transfer of these spend funds into more sustainable investment practices. It began as an effort to stigmatize the fossil fuel industry. Divestment campaigns began as an effort to stigmatize the fossil fuel industry for socio political reasons, and it calls upon the integrity, ethics, social responsibility and financial stability of a university with regards to its endowment fund. And it's not a new concept, it's been used in the South Africa anti-apartheid movement and the groups across the world advocated for disinvestment from South Africa. And this disinvestment is credited to be one of the pressures that pushed the South African government to remove the apartheid system. So in other words, divestment can work as a pressure that we can apply for a green transition and climate justice. I think this is an interesting quote by Bill McKibben, the founder of 350.org, an international climate organization, and it says that if it's wrong to, if it's wrong to wreck the climate, then it's wrong to profit from that wreckage. So the fossil fuel industry is actively wrecking the climate, and by investing in these industries, we're profiting from this wreckage. So the financial case for divestment Some people argue that fossil fuel divestment is a poor financial choice, but evidence is showing the opposite. So fossil fuels are becoming a more long term investment choice.

A report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis concluded excellent results for divestment portfolios and two major investment forms, one of them being BlackRock, and which was an investment firm that has been heavily criticized by environmental activists for the reluctance to divest, actually conducted a study into divestment and found that divestment portfolios do not experience any negative impact and actually experience a positive impact. And it's important to note that the majority of known carbon reserves must not be burned in order to reach these climate targets, which brings to question the value of these companies, since there's an undeniable axis of carbon beyond climate limits. So first off, Fossil Free UNB is the fossil fuel divestment campaign here at UNB and we’re calling upon the ethical, moral, social and financial responsibility of the university to sell its shares in fossil fuel companies as a strategy to fight the climate crisis. So it is in collaboration with the divestment campaign at St. Thomas University Divest STU in the organization called RAVEN - Rural Action and Voices for the Environment, we're calling upon UNB to divest its endowment from fossil fuel companies. And currently we do have over three hundred petition signatures from the UNB community so that staff, students, alumni, retired individuals in support of the divestment, and we do have a brochure that details fossil fuel divestment in a nutshell. And it should be noted that many of whom use long term investment fund managers are signatories to the principles for responsible investment and future investments like investing into more sustainable practices and divesting from fossil fuels will be a way for these investment fund managers to actually follow these principles for responsible investing.

Investing in an industry that is actively profiting off of the climate crisis is not responsible investing. So we suggest that both a public and written statement of a plan from UNB to divest fossil fuels entirely within the next two years and suggest sustainable investing alternatives. So I think it's important to note that divestment has been picking up internationally and here in Canada as well. There have been multiple universities that have divested, notably University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto, which has one of the largest endowment funds in Canada and I believe it was $400 million in fossil fuel industries alone. Whereas at NAB, we still have 6.3 million dollars in investments in fossil fuel. So I believe that we can divest Concordia, Lakehead, Laval, Simon Fraser University. They have all divested. And it's notable. Universities internationally, such as the University of Cambridge and Oxford University, have also committed to full fossil fuel divestment. So internationally, over 39.8 trillion dollars have been divested from fossil fuel companies, and over 1339 institutions and climate activists across Canada are demanding for divestment. There's multiple groups out there demanding for divestment Mac Divest. You can see divestment Mount A as well. Young students are out there demanding for climate action from the university, and we wish you did the same at UNB. How the UNBSU can help: in general, we would like that you could write a letter of official support if you guys are interested. Or sign on to a letter from Fossil Free UNB, an open letter is currently in development. We also ask that you support us on social media. We really need student support in order to really push for divestment. That's what really convinces the university to divest from fossil fuels. Well, we're also interested in having actions such as hanging banners in the student union building and across campus doing chalk drawings or murals showing a few pictures. Simon Fraser University successfully divested from fossil fuels, and it did paint a mural on the ground, which also washes away. It's not permanent, and Mount Allison also did a better job of showing the photo. So those are just a few examples of the help that we're looking from the student union, but we really wish for your support. Previously, the UNB Student Union agreed to have their logo featured on our Guide to Fossil Fuel Divestment brochure, but we are looking for your help to really get that student support. So we have a petition, we have a member sign up for people who are interested in getting more involved with the campaign, and those are some of our social media accounts. So that is all I really have to present today if anyone has any questions.

*Chair, Matt Gysbers says***:** You know, this is a great time for questions, so if anyone has any questions, feel free to raise your hand or I think if you're on Zoom, because right now the way it is like just say something and I can give you the floor.

*Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states***:** Not necessarily a question, but I think Rose did give us a lot of good suggestions that in ways that we can help, so I would suggest that we tabled this issue to next meeting so we can all have some thought on what we would have. And then the executive team can kind of come up with something we want to draft or get approved for council. So that would be my idea if nobody has any questions for Rose.

*President, Kordell Walsh***:** I was just going to ask if you Rose or anyone from your team have had a chance to present to the Board investment committee or the president's task force, investing to address climate change because they've expressed desire to sign on to the Canadian agreement that some of the universities you listed have signed on to.

*Rose He***:** And so I've been in communication with Jennifer Morrison, the treasurer at UNB, and I do plan on presenting to the Board of Governors early next year. Like January, whenever the meeting is, I have it written in my calendar, don't remember it off the top of my head. But previously there was another campaign leader, Rachel Bensler, who was from Renaissance College, and she did present to the board of Governors. And I, I am aware of that like responsible investing climate change committee, but I haven't had the opportunity to interact with them quite yet. But I was invited to present to the Investments Committee meeting.

*Chair, Matt Gysbers:* Any other questions about it?

*Inclusion Representative, Maya Kors***:** My question is, I know you listed a bunch of different action items that like you guys are proposing that you can help out on. Are there any other barriers you guys are facing other than the things that you mentioned to other than like awareness campaigns? Are there any other barriers you're facing right now as a group?

*Rose He***:** Um, if I know that there are there are members of the union that are on the board of governors there, if there could be if they are interested in promoting the fossil fuel divestment campaign through those meetings, that would be extremely helpful, I'd say, because the administration can be quite reluctant to divest from fossil fuels. I'm sure if that answers your question or not.

**Resolution 043-21**

***That*** *Council table this discussion to the next meeting.*

**Mover:** Katelynn

**Seconder:** Seth

Motion passes.

**5.2 Budget Presentation**

*Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald***:** Before I start, I would like to make it known that the section for the salaries for the summer of the executives, the number that's presented right now is not equal to what it actually was. When I get that official number, I will bring it back to council with that updated number. All right, so if everyone's good, I'm probably just going to start. So the rows that we have here are preliminary rows from 2021-2022. This is kind of what we work with our budget every single year. Next to it is the final budget from last year. Since last year was COVID the numbers are drastically different because there weren't certain events or certain resources that we were given out. There was less student enrollment and we hadn't yet started collecting part-time student fees.

Our sponsorship revenue, which is line 40900, is increased by about ten thousand this year due to a sponsorship for the SafeRide van to be retrofitted, along with the Rising Youth grant that is all in that sponsorship number. Not much has really changed from the preliminary, except for those parts when it comes to our revenue.

For Office and Administrative, this is just basic things that the numbers usually stayed the same every year, like last year, I said, because of COVID the numbers fluctuate a little bit, but last year’s weren’t normal numbers, and theese very similar to the numbers that we've had in past years. Another point is councillor honorariums, this number will also be smudged a little bit because as we all know our councillors, not all the positions are filled and you all do get an honorarium. So, in the final budget, this number will be lower than it is presented right now. But for a preliminary one, this is what we have as well as the councillor orientation in councillor projects. So that is a reminder that you folks do have a budget that you can work with to make your councillor project known. And if at any time you ever have questions, you can come speak to me about that.

For grants and contributions, so we have the campus service grant and the Sustainability Fund, which is line 52021, which students and groups on campus can apply. I talked about it a little bit in the past, but it's going really well, and this semester almost all the money has been used, which is really positive because that means that people are trying to make their events in their clubs more sustainable, which is the purpose of this grant. Orientation right now, we just have the preliminary budget, the official budget in January, when I do this again, we'll have the actual number that was spent in orientation. There is still some bills that come in and expenses that we're paying and then also what we have to pay out to Shinerama. So that number is not the concrete number quite yet.

Like I had already mentioned, so 51030 is the summer salaries for the VPs, the fifty six thousand is not correct and will be better represented in the next part of the budget, along with 51050 part time employees. Usually there's a couple of people that work within the welcome center as part time employees, and Karen and Terry have just not needed as many students to fill in those hours, so that number will be reflected lower in the final budget as well. SafeRide is where the big changes are. The number for financing is the regular what we pay every year, and I put beside it what we're paying this year because there is some differences. One of our vehicles is paid off, so our financing isn't as expensive. But since we did put in the accessibility to the black van, our number for the maintenance is a lot higher. It also will be reflected in the final budget that our salaries will be higher, too, since we're going to be operating four vans instead of three.

*Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst:* Sorry, you said the financing went down this year, it looks like the two numbers for financing are the same there.

*Vice President Finance and Operations:* It has gone down, but we don't have the exact number yet, but it has gone down because one of our vans was paid off and then we’re leasing the new van. It will still be almost the same. Also, this is something that I should have prefaced before. We don't aim to make money. When we break even, that's great. We don't also aim to be in a deficit, but like having a surplus like this, a four thousand surplus is actually kind of not the greatest thing because we are a not for profit. So that should be mentioned. Think if anyone has any questions because I know it is pretty lengthy, I can answer them if any specific number looks off or doesn't make any sense, I can answer at this time.

*Inclusion Councillor, Jillian Carson***:** it's nothing major, I really appreciate it how neat everything was, it made it easy for me to look at. I just noticed at the bottom under the honoraria budgets for all the positions, there was one that I thought was off, but I figured it out. But the townhouse one is off by one hundred and fifty, I think. I don't know if I just went over that wrong, but that was all I saw. Everything else looked really good.

*Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald***:** Yes, that’s our mistake thank you for bringing that up. I will mention about honorarias that for example, we didn't have Drinks Mart, a.k.a. ace coordinator for the fall semester, so that money isn't being used. We also have an extra SET member this year, so that's where it's kind of being offset. Once we write down the honorariums and everyone fills out their councillor ones, that will better represent what our honorarium number is. But I'll change that in there. And thank you, Jill, for pointing that out.

**Resolution 044-21**

*That Council approve the revised budget for the 2021-2022 academic year.*

**Mover:** Katelynn Pickel MacDonald

**Seconder:** Brennan Marks

Motion carries.

**5.3 Agenda Discussion**

*Brennan Marks, Vice President Student Life***:** So one of the largest projects in our portfolio over the summer is the student agenda. And I just wanted to have a discussion about the student agenda because I don't think many people use it. So I was just curious about your thoughts on the student agenda and take a little bit more context. We partner with this company called C.U. Advertising, and they are an advertising firm that focuses on universities and student unions. And they basically do the advertising work for most of the agenda. And then they give us a very specific list of companies that we can contact on our own. Those are more like internal or like businesses that we have relationships with already because they typically are more receptive to hearing from us directly. So basically, CU is seeking to re sign the contract, and I had some hesitation about it because basically 50 percent of the advertising revenue that generate they take in. And over the summer, I was able to take in more than they had provided us without doing much work. So it just questions about that. And then when we started discussing that as an executive, it kind of just like the fact that the agenda isn't used kind of came up. So I was just wondering, does anyone use the agenda? So I'll leave it at that for now. I have some other points, but I just kind of want to hear folks initial thoughts you.

*Seth Eichhorst, Law Representative***:** So yeah, this is my third year and I didn't know this existed. I don't think I've seen a lot. So, yeah, stop it.

*Katelynn Pickel MacDonald, Vice President Finance and Operations***:** when the executive did have this conversation, something that we kind of talked about is maybe not making as many, like making enough for the o-kits and incoming students and then maybe a couple more. Sometimes they get used, but it may be if we don't want to scrap it entirely keeping enough for just the o-kits could be something, but that is a lot of work. Like it's a month almost of his work in the summer, dedicated to the agendas where we don't necessarily see.

*Brennan Marks***:** printed 15 hundreds. It was just under nine grand. It was all covered through advertising revenue. We actually made a little bit of money off the agenda this year, which is always not the goal, but it happened so. Yeah, so I don't know. And the other thing is there's like four boxes that is just going to get thrown out and all the this from last year also just got thrown out. So yeah, it's not very sustainable either. Yeah, I don't know. I have my feelings towards the agenda that it is a waste of time and resources. But I also see that there's value for some students, and getting an agenda from the student union has been kind of like a long tradition of student unions to produce the agenda.

*Inclusion Councillor, Maya Kors***:** Personally speaking, the only time I used it was like orientation. No offense.

*Brennan Marks***:** Yeah. No, no. None taken. I don't use it either. So then my only thought is, is it worth? Is it? Is it worth it enough to continue the project? Because the project, regardless of how many print, it's the same amount of work that goes into it.

*Kordell Walsh***:** When we had this discussion, another thing that came up was folks who use agendas typically like it personalized, right? And having that generic ad filled agenda that that isn't necessarily the one they want to go out and buy it chapters. Even among the o-kits, are you getting 10 percent of people using it? Is that a generous number? My thoughts are it's probably not necessarily worth the time, but I mean also it is a great program for those who do use it.

*Maya Kors***:** I do own a copy of the agenda, but I have not looked inside of it. I was wondering, would you mind just giving like a quick, like bullet point of like what is actually included inside the agenda?

*Brennan Marks***:** Yes, of course. So there is a lot of technical information in the agenda. So it houses our council directory. It has all the like financial aid stuff like a lot of the offices on campus also promote using it again. It doesn't matter if no one's reading it like it, it means nothing. If no one is reading it, it has a calendar pages. Obviously, it has advertisements from people who partner with us to pay for the cost of the agenda. That's also the only purpose of the advertisement and trying to think of anything else like just information that exists in other places. That students clearly must be going somewhere else to get the information.

*Maya Kors***:** And just to clarify, like the things that are. The things that are listed in the calendar and stuff, are they just coming straight off like the graduate calendar of events or are there any other things SU specific that are added into it?

*Brennan Marks***:** So I put my event schedule for the year into it again. It doesn't matter if no one opens the calendar page. Just, you know, I mean, like if you don't scroll till October twenty fifth to see that we have this schedule, you know?

*Kordell Walsh***:** a quick comment on that too, though, is a downside of that is the fact that an agenda is very stationary and like, for example, finance week we shifted the dates, but you can't shift the dates in the agenda. So it’s not to say it's useless information, but it's important that if we are producing it, being able to let students know that information may be changing and where to go for finding that new information would be important as well.

*Maya Kors:*Yeah. I agree with Kordell on the fact that it's stationary can't be edited after the fact. But I also like agree that all the resources that are in it are really valuable. And especially for incoming students who know nothing about the university. It's like really good stuff to have. I'm a proctor this year in Lady Dunn, and I've had a lot of students actually come up to me during our check ins and talk about how they don't know what's happening on campus. And I think a lot of like the student leaders have been taking it upon themselves to try to tell them all about these things that are happening are like, how to do it. I was wondering if maybe an alternative option, which again would be different, but maybe could also be easier to keep modifying. And it would it wouldn't stop in the summer, which would be kind of another issue. But could it be possible to do have something online and accessible for the community, maybe available on the UNBSU website? Because I know that there are some like there are calendars and stuff like that, but they're not always updated by different clubs and events and activities like that.

*Brennan Marks***:** We do have a calendar that you go to this year but is updated by the events all that clubs and societies that they can post their events to it. There's a form on the website to fill that out. It's not being used. It went out on social media a couple of times. Yeah, I mean, I totally agree that people aren't checking. It's just frustrating because we hear that messaging like, oh, I don't know, I don't know. And it's like, well, like we, we do respond to that need. It's just it's not getting to the students for whatever reason, whether it's that they don't follow Instagram, whether it's that they're not reading emails. Yeah, it's frustrating, as people are saying, like, yes, I want to do something, I want to go to events, but then we plan events and we promote events and nobody comes.

*Maya Kors***:** I remember like looking at that again, I'm not sure if this is a different calendar because I haven't checked recently, but I remember like when I was in first year. So about two years ago when I was checking like the calendar looking for things to do, I was finding that like it was quite different from what I had been seeing on social media, like the social media version and the online updated version were kind of different. Like, I see that like seven clubs and societies are hosting events and they're promoting them on their Instagrams. But there was no like solid place, I guess. And I guess that's not a very helpful thing to say, and I apologize for that. I definitely need to go check out the calendar that Nico has updated this year. Apologies. I was just trying to share my what I happen to hear from students, especially in residence here.

*Brennan Marks***:** if I can respond to that. My anger was not directed at you. It has just been an ongoing frustration for the year and it's not students fault. It's our fault. Like it's it's not their job to find us, it's our job to find them. And we haven't hit the mark this year, but we've been doing better. And obviously now Niko has left, so we don't we don't have a comms person right now. But yeah, it's just like students are changing. My Facebook use, like in my first year like Facebook was where we found events and now no one's on Facebook. The whole team had good discussions about ways to get people engaged. Our Instagram is that seems to be where people exist, but Instagram doesn't have like the features at Facebook.

*Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald***:** So we're going to start giving out cookies to encourage people to follow our Instagram. But if this is something that I know you mentioned clubs and societies, I approve their events, but after I approve it, I never really hear anything of it. But if this is a conversation, you would like me to have with them I can look into creating or seeing if they would like their events posted on this calendar. So then students can see, because we this year are actually being very active. And some students may just not know that if you don't follow their specific Instagram account or follow them on Facebook.

*Maya Kors***:** Yeah, I think that actually would be really wonderful, and I think you would both drive traffic to the clubs and also to the student union because say that all the things are seriously in one place and not kind of all over on social media. Then when you're actually checking for one single thing, you might actually find out that the student union has something next week as well, and you had absolutely no idea that was there. So I don't know. It might be something to look a little bit further into maybe next semester or something like that.

*Chair, Matt Gysbers***:** I have a question, but did you still have a question about that?

*Vice President Advocacy, Ojaswi Joshi***:** So what's the plan? So if you remove it, what’s the plan with it and I think it's from my personal experience, I use it. But then somehow I think over the time, so students do kind of like do different things. I mean, I kind of find it not accessible. And then I had like a different journal. So maybe you could look into being more creative. I think something else we could do is like we could invite students to actually do the designing and things like that. So maybe like I think that's also a good way of promoting creativity. You could do like a competition or something like that. And then instead of having to design that sort of thing, you can let someone else or something like that.

*Brennan Marks***:** Kind of what I've gathered in the conversation is that we we need do some work on how we promote. These resources that aren't that it's like the calendar, for instance, that exists and what you're referring to, like the the resource that exists, it's on the website. It's just people don't know about it and not that is our responsibility. And I don't know. I think we try to find this balance of like oversharing with students like we can't put everything we do on our Instagram Story. It doesn't matter. Lots to think about. And another thing that I was going to bring my update, but it's relevant now is I met with we had that conversation with guys like this weekend, I'm going to start putting up my weekly newsletters to house teams. It'll probably look very similar to the newsletter we send to every student. But I think it's going to make it very much like, here's like literally just a list of events like Tell your students and I can also for the proctors, you know, you can take your students to this and this accounts for your CDM requirements if you can do your program through this event, like just make it really easy. The agenda discussion was very helpful, and I think it has solidified not just like I was leaning towards getting rid of it, as you could probably tell from my tone around the agenda. Yes, thank you for that. Thank you for all your feedback. It's really helpful.

*Board of Governors Representative, Vishnu Vardhan***:** Yeah, I was like listening to all of you, and I was just like thinking to myself, I feel like being someone that had that had also done the task before I found it kind of rewarding for myself and I personally like the agendas. I think it's a very nice tradition that, like there are few things that carry over with each passing team, and one of the few things is. Except with the exception of events and stuff, obviously, one of the few things that stay with every single team is the agenda, and I feel like that's. It's sort of it's a mixture of everyone's roles, in a sense, but honestly, if if the team thinks that the money saved or the money that well, I don't know what the balance is like this time, but if the money saved can be put towards something else and something different, like go for it. But yeah, like but at the same time, I also think that they aren't advertised well enough. I don't think the agendas are like in accessible spots like it's only in the welcome center that people go to and usually people go to go to the welcome center only once the bus passes and they're not really looking for the agenda.

*Maya Kors***:** I just wanted to clarify on something I've said earlier about the rest of the students not having a lot of information. I think something to clarify that I think not all counselors know or not. Almost all of the residences are full of first year students. And so a lot of the stuff on advertising that we used to go by word of mouth in residence has fallen on proctors and the very, very few returning students and residents. So I just want to clarify that it's not like an attack on the student union this year in general. It's that I think there's also something to consider is that a lot of the students on campus, which are also the people who usually that tend to be events are not hearing as much about it because it has fallen on like the MAX four people in each residence who are returners.

**5.4 SU Events for Councillors**

*Brennan Marks***:** So I just sent everyone a list and it was the list that we talked about a while ago. But all the events that you can use as your counselor or volunteer requirements are in there. There's one ongoing one, which is the breakfast program, which is great. And then there's all the other events now, obviously, like I don't I don't know every event that's going to happen during sex week in February. So I have listed it's like a super brief description of the events that you could expect and then who the primary event organizer is. So that person, I am hoping, will bring forward the opportunities to counsel as they get a little bit closer. I know that it's kind of like me, from myself and from always. I'm here, representative view, I guess. Yeah. So if you have questions about any events like please just reach out to me, I want to talk about it. And I also put a couple of notes at the start. If you have a council project that requires extra hands, share with your council. As a council, they can go help and count your hours. What else did I put? I put some good stuff. Give it a read.

*Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald***:** And then also like, I don't know if anyone overheard the conversation, but that requirement for the semester will not count. It's fine for the semester, but next semester you want to receive your full honorarium volunteer as the event will be required to get your whole 50.

5.5 **Non-Faculty Councillor Updates**

*Accessibility Representative, Mia Scalibrin***:** Hello. So recently, I have been in contact with Easter SEALs New Brunswick just to try and get a little bit of guidance over like different workshop ideas that the All Abilities clubs could do once it's up and running. And then I reached out to an ASL company that provides an online ASL program. And I'm like trying to see if they're able to give like a discount to UNB students in general. And then maybe like through a grant, we could have it for free for all the students. If it's like a decent amount of a discount they offer. And then I'm planning on having another meeting with those who are interested in the club once I hear back from this company. And that's about it for now.

*Jillian**Carson***:** Currently, I don't have any updates at this time.

*Maya Kors***:** So right now, I don't have any updates other than in like I've been talking with Deanna before about the possibility of doing an inclusion project next semester. So I'm just doing a preliminary stage that.

*International Student Representative, Sangeeth Mylatt Veetil***:** Thank you. Yeah, so I am planning a councillor project, and I started talking to Hilary from the ISAO about doing something with international students, reaching out to the ISA and UNBSU Milticultural initiatives. So I'm just waiting on advice and then doing that.

*2SLGBTQIA+ Councillor, Gaia Noseworthy*: Yes, I'm going to turn on my video. I have two major updates and I'm OK with everyone seeing me while I talk about it. Hello. So the first thing update from my position as the LGBTQ2IA+ representative. Yesterday we held the Trans Day of Remembrance vigil with the 203, which I personally think went quite well. You know, Brennan can speak more on that than I can since he was more involved with the organization of it. But I just want to kind of bring everyone's attention. That was a thing that happened, and I spoke there in my capacity as a representative of the student union and that went quite well. The other thing is more so in my capacity as a student senator, but I want to bring this to student union's attention as something that's been very important lately. There's a lot going on at the moment in regards to the biology psychology program with the Fredericton Senate, as well as the president, the board and the student union. I, myself and a few others have received a letter signed by forty one students about why this program was passed a year ago and then just suddenly shelved with no warning and it's been going very deep. Law Professor Nicole O'Byrne has been very active on the legal side of this question and has been very angry about it for those who are not in the know. I will skip over the Brunswickan article and everything. Basically, what happened in the Senate here in Fredericton passed the creation of a biology psychology program at UNB Fredericton, which exists in UNB St. John. It got to SJs Senate in which they're not allowed to vote on it. It's kind of a thing for Fredericton only. They decided to vote on it anyways and voted no, and then the President pulled it from the board meetings, which the questions up in the air on if he's allowed to do that and students are growing very upset. The media on campus has been taking very active note of it and the student senators, plus senators from multiple different areas have been contacted to speak on it and see what we can do. The Senate meeting will be happening this Tuesday and I will likely have updates next week, which I'll email the chair for, probably to add to the agenda that I would like to give that update. That should be everything on my behalf.

*Violet Sioux, on behalf of the Nuci Putawasuwin***:** We have some events planned and I and Kianna are pursuing some funding for a student lounge right now. There's some collaboration between ourselves as part of the indigenous student society to push forward with some different initiatives on campus. So we're hoping to have a big launch in the next few weeks and I hope you all keep your eyes peeled.

*Kate Palmer, Women’s Representative***:** So I've been working a bit on my councillor project, so for those who don't know, I'm working alongside Caroline Stephen, a fifth year student here at UNB to provide free, accessible menstrual products. So I had a really successful meeting today with Ridhi and Caroline and Caroline and I were able to finalize a proposal this evening. And so we're looking to reach out to all the faculty this week to get their support. And that's pretty much where we are.

**6.0 Reports to Council**

**6.1 Vice President – Advocacy**

*Ojaswi Joshi states, “*Thank you. Since this is the first thing, I'd like to start by expressing my gratitude towards this indigenous land and the student movement for the opportunity for me to be able to do this next semester will be my last semester, so. So it is quite exciting and I'm looking forward to it. So this week I had two meetings with the coordinators, Savannah and Anajose. So we have already confirmed a few events for Wellness Week. this time we try to make all our events as light as possible because we want to overwhelm ourselves and if we want to enjoy it, so we don't want to stress ourselves a lot. So I also had my first meeting with the New Brunswick Student Alliance. I think it was kind of a really interesting experience with like so much information that I had on them. So for me, I'm really excited to see if we can figure out a way to make this work. But of course, they could go definitely work together and we will like, try to do it in a way that we think is right and honestly. But apart from that, it is kind of interesting to know what other universities are to make of the programs and things like that. And then I also joined the EDI team for NBSA. So I had a meeting with Ty and Sydona at STU, so I had a wonderful conversation with them straight from the international student. For advocacy committee, and I know some of you are here, so I kind of want to give you all a heads up on what I'm planning to do for that. So I strongly believe that sometimes students are not given opportunities to voice their opinions. And I feel like we have power to influence or to push into the system than I think any other faculty members. So I’d love to do an advocacy speech competition. So that's what happened next semester. And then I also plan to have a meeting soon.”

6.2 **Vice President Student Life**

*Brennan Marks, Vice President Student Life***:** I had a pretty good week, so it was Finance Week. I was pleased with the week, I think some impactful programming. So we did the bingo on Monday, which I was just so jazzed about. It went really well and I think folks really liked it. And I think some of that I'll continue to do. It's easier than trivia. And you don't need to know anything to play bingo. You just kind of enjoy it, which I think is wonderful. What else happened fun is that we gave away 200 or so at least gift cards to a couple of students, and that's pretty cool. And we had a luncheon where Shelley and myself and Kordell attended. It was very informative. And if you don't know Shelly, I encourage you to reach out. She's amazing. She works in financial aid. And yeah, so please overall and just some promotion stuff went on as well with that week and what else? I attended Student Standings and Promotions Committee this week. Senate Curriculum Committee. The executive had a Student Services Leadership Team meeting where I had that conversation that I mentioned earlier about getting our word out a little bit more into that residence community because, as Maya alluded to, that used to be a very significant part of our promotions with the residence community, and I also attended the mayor's working group on post-secondary education. And that was really good. We're starting to revamp the Good Neighbors project, which is a project that targeted the College Hill area to just get students to be conscious that we're not the only ones in the area that we share the neighborhood with the residents of the city, and they tasked us with making a brochure to hand out all the houses. So I think there’s more creative ways to get the good neighbor messaging out to the students in a way that's impactful and meaningful, so hopefully have some updates on that. I made some more changes to the Hamper Food Box program, pretty excited and I think it will fix our issues. It's now going to run on Tuesdays so students will have access to safe rides or grocery run to take the 50 pound box at home. It's quite challenging if you don't have a car. And we'll also include overnight one night to give folks a little more time to come and collect their boxes. So hopefully that will make the program as accessible as it can be. Student Legal Information Center has done really, really well. It's been more use this year than I think in the past two years, which is super exciting. We transitioned to an email system this year, so there's not a drop in hours and that it's impactful. And I think legal topics, I imagine, can be difficult to discuss. So having that like email interaction kind of makes it a little bit more accessible. So I'm really pleased with that. Gaia mentioned Trans Day of Remembrance Ceremony was yesterday. Thank you so much for speaking on behalf of the union. I really do appreciate it. SafeRide is gearing up for winter, so myself and Alice had a couple of meetings just to talk about what winter looks like for safe ride and will be putting a fourth van into rotation, hopefully by the very start of second semester. I don't think it's worth it to try to throw into the mix right now where we're jumping to take exams. And that's all the pressing stuff ready.

6.3 **Vice President Internal**

***Ridhi Sharma, Vice President Internal:*** Hello, everyone. Well, first of all, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve the student body. My first week started with just, you know, grasping the role and just getting to know what the role is about. I met with the Student Services leadership team, which was great, but I didn't have much updates because I just started, then met with Julie and Luc. And they just kind of explained the role of senator to me. But you know that we have vacancies in this Senate student committee. So if you're interested, please reach out to me. We talked about ALPS, which is adult learner and part time students, and about the Senate seat over there. With Gaia this weekend, and he told me about the biology psychology program, I met with Kate and Caroline about the menstrual dispenser proposal. I also met with Hilary from the ISAO office to talk about cultural sensitivity training for the council members. And we will be having a council transition for the new members next weekend at 5:30. I'll make a post about that later for the new councillors. I know Katelynn already mentioned this, but please submit your honorariums by next week. We will be meeting with Mike Mason from the library to discuss some projects and then I'll be meeting with Matt Bishop as well, as he wanted to talk about sustainable academic options.

**6.4 Vice President Finance and Operations**

*Katelynn**Pickel-MacDonald, Vice President Finance and Operations states***:** I had a meeting with Gillian McLean, who is back to her position now, so that's really good. She's someone from student services and she is really heavy on the clubs and society side as well as orientation. So we went over just the checklist for student events as well as the PEO training is going to be redone. Then a new format where I will be voicing over with a little clip of me popping in so that hopefully the training is more interactive. Instead, it's kind of dry right now. Make it at least a little bit more interesting and then the knowledge can stick a little bit better. Start in interviews with people as well set up interview times for other candidates that will be happening this week, standard event approvals and then standard funding approvals. We had our monthly meeting with the Student Services leadership team, so that went very well and the week. We had interviews for two safe drivers and those were very well. So we're adding a couple new people to positions, which is good. Met with Kianna and Violet about funding for the Indigenous Student society. And then I attended, but was not able to play bingo at the cellar. Everyone at the cellar during the time played, and it seemed to go over extremely well. So two big thumbs up for that. And then I went over the budget with our team here and before we get to council with the updated numbers. And then there was conversation set up to go over orientation and the hiring of the o-chair and vice-chair happening soon.

6.5 **President**

*Kordell Walsh, President:* Hi, folks. And welcome to our new councillors for your first council meeting. I had Board of Governors Finance and Properties Committee meeting this week, which went well. We have the Student Services Leadership Team meeting, which was another great conversation, the insightful to chat with each other about outreach to students. Mike Nason from the UNB Libraries is the Scholarly and Research Librarian I think, he reached out to me to start the conversation about OERs and the exam bank. Educational resources which are open access sort of textbooks that folks can use, which would reduce the costs on students. And then also the exam bank, which was a program, started up two years ago or three years ago that was essentially reaching out to profs and asking them to include past exams into this bank housed on the library website and that folks could use as resources for studying. So you look and see maybe twenty seventeen this exam look like this for this class and use it as a as a resource to study. And we chatted about how it's probably even more valuable for first and second years, who are just learning about university and how to to develop good study habits and things like that. I picked up a case of rapid tests. The student union has about a hundred boxes of five rapid tests and handouts that will be posting on social media. They'll be available in the welcome center for anyone to pick up. No questions asked. I had Governance and Internal Review Committee through CASA. I had a meeting with Shelley Clayton to talk about some of our programs and how they've done this semester, such as the Student Emergency Bursary and the Sobeys gift card program, and they're going well. So far, there's been an uptick this year in use, but still this sort of equated it to COVID and was an expected uptick. And then I had a call with Lorna Campbell from the College of Extended Learning just to chat about formerly ALPS and sort of the scholarship program that they ran and tried to make sure that we're on the same page about that and making sure that we're continuing to fund that with the ALPS fees. I had senate undergraduate scholarships committee and we approved some procedural changes. Student Standings and Promotions. Same as usual. I had a session, a conversation with representatives PETL and we just talked about university funding models and sort of what the implications are now that the MOU with the province is set to expire after it was renewed. It's set to expire in the coming spring, so it's going to open up discussions with universities about what that funding model might look like and how much can be offered to universities. We had an NBSA board meeting which went well. Academic Policy and Procedures Committee. I sent the email to Advancement Committee, as well as included some informational documents to begin the conversation stemming from the last week about the NBSA and the direction there. We started hiring for VP Communications and we conducted an interview and have more scheduled for this week. And then I've also been helping with Brennan doing social media stuff. So I made a couple updates for the website. I got most of our councillors added to the website and have been trying to help run the Instagram, Facebook.

7. Question Period

8. Announcements

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

**Resolution 045-21**

***That*** *Council adjourn the meeting.*

**Mover: Kordell Walsh**

**Seconder: Jillian Carson**

Motion is carried.