

Minutes - UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2022/2023

November 27, 2022; in-person meeting with hybrid option



Present:

- Kordell
- Rose
- Annie
- Ridhi
- Amanda
- Isabella
- Warren
- Emily
- Keri
- Shayna (virtual)
- Molly
- Sarah
- Sean
- Jordan
- Abby
- Alexa
- Kartik
- Zach (virtual)
- Sangeet
- Minh
- Amy (virtual)
- Luc
- Gaia (virtual)
- Heer (virtual)
- Patrick
- Kisenge

Not Present:

- Ally

Regrets:

- Rayleh
- Bradley
- Kianna
- Kate
- Amy

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

1. Call to Order

- Council chairperson, Josh, calls the meeting to order at 7:04 PM AST.

1.1. Roll Call

- Council chairperson, Josh, performs roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Chair - I spent some time between now and the previous meeting trying to fix the email issues, did anyone have the same issues as last week and not get the agenda?
 - Minh - Yes, I am still having the same issues.
 - Chair - Okay, come speak with me after the meeting and we'll get this solved.
- Chair - I'd also like to motion to remove item 8.1, we're just going to take this up another time.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda for November 27, 2022, is approved with the amendment of removing item 8.1.
 - Mover: Chair assumed.
 - Seconder: Kordell
 - Notes: No discussion.
 - The vote was taken 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 - Thank you all for coming today. I had the pleasure of meeting with Warren before this meeting to conduct our Councillor-Chair check-in. For all of our "old Councillors" being those who started before the election, if we have not met yet for our check in's, I am going to ask that you stay behind for 5 minutes after the session to maybe just get a date on the calendar. We have a pretty busy agenda, in which includes having our CRO Drashtant Varma here today to discuss the results of the VP Finance and Operations re-election and then an in-camera session. For those of you who are new, I know we did exclude you from our last in-camera session as you were not yet councillors so this will be a first for you! To go over what this means, when it is time for the discussion, I as chairperson will recognize a sensitive topic and call for an in-camera session. If we feel at that time any parties should be excluded or included in the conversation, they will be mentioned at that time. When we get to this item in the agenda, I will go over it one more time. I have also invited a few parties to join us tonight so you may see a few new faces. We have Bailey and Veena with us from the BAUS for the in-camera session and also Jorja Smith who is an ENR student here at UNB. Jorja is here in reference to item 5.5 of the agenda, Discussion of Interim Forestry and Environmental

Management Councillor. I will speak more to this item once we reach its respective place in the agenda. Are there any questions before we move on?

- No further discussion.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Chair - The previous council minutes were sent in the agenda for this week as a hyperlink. Did any one have any questions on them?
 - Abby - Jill sent me her update to council after the minutes had been sent out so we should amend the minutes to include this report.
 - Chair - Okay, I will assume this motion.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes be amended to include VP Academic's report that was sent late.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Secunder: Isabella
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.
- Chair - Are there any other questions regarding the previous minutes?
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes from November 20, 2022, are approved with the amendment of including the VP Academic's update.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Secunder: Sean
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

5. Substantive Business

5.1. Appointment of the VPFO from the VPFO Special Election

- Drashtant - For those of you that didn't know, we had a re-election due to unforeseen circumstances regarding the Vice President Finance and Operations position. Three of the original candidates ran, Isabella Hallihan won the re-election, and there were no issues in the election this time around.
- Chair - Are there any questions for Drashtant?
 - Motion: Be it resolved that Isabella Hallihan be appointed as the VPFO for the UNBSU based on the results of the Special re-election.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Secunder: Emily
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes with Isabella abstaining. Motion carries.

5.2. In-camera (closed) Session - Sexual Assault Discussion

- Chair - We are now going to be entering an in-camera session, this is just a reminder that due to the nature of this conversation, if you need to step out or be excluded, you are welcome to exit now. We have also invited the VP Internal and President of BAUS to join us in the conversation, to encourage cooperation and collaboration in the conversation.

5.3. Discussion of Interim VP Academic & Plans regarding the position

- Kordell - Bylaw 1 section 65 that details that in the case of a vacancy, we need to appoint an ordinary member and then hold an election/byelection according to bylaw 2. There are a number of issues with this method of filling the position because folks would be campaigning into exams, and winter break. Then you hit January and run an election until you hit the nomination period of the general election. We just came out of a lengthy election period, so I'm not sure that this is the best route. Maybe we just do the election, although it seems like this will be problematic and result in low turnout. One thing I want to bring to council is that we could hire someone, and then during elections we can tell the candidates that we would like to start them earlier than the other students that might be running for other positions. I think the idea of folks having extra time to transition in, and be paid to transition in is appealing. My idea would be presenting it as folks who apply for VP Academic running from March 13th to April 30th of the following year.
 - Gaia - Who would we put as in charge of the hiring process? Would it be Selections Committee?
 - Kordell - I think Selections Committee makes the most sense, I would suggest it be that.
 - Gaia - Who currently sits on Selections?
 - Chair - I have the list right here. It is Isabella, Emily, Kartik, Shayna, and Molly Kennedy.
- Kordell - Are folks comfortable with following through with that plan?
 - Luc - Yes, I think that's a very appropriate course of action.
- Chair - If we want to get it on the record, we can do a vote.
- Kordell - I was mainly just looking for someone to speak for or against the idea, if no one seems to think otherwise, we can go ahead with the plan.
- Gaia - I think we should do a vote to follow council procedure.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the interim VP Academic will be hired by the Selections Committee.
 - Mover: Kordell
 - Secunder: Sean
 - Notes: No discussion.
 - The vote passes. Motion carries.

5.4. Discussion of Previous Resignations

- Chair - This is another in-camera session. If any motions are proposed, we will leave in-camera to record the motion and vote, and then re-enter for the continuation of the conversation.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the executives are to perform an internal review and present the report to council on January 15th, 2023.
 - Mover: Gaia
 - Secunder: Shayna
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes. Motion carries, Kordell and Amanda abstain.

5.5. Discussion of Interim Forestry and Environmental Management Councillor

- Chair - With the byelection that we just finished, we had a great turn out with the exception of the FOR/ENR councillor, where we didn't have any nominations. As previously discussed in council because of a comment from Kianna, we talked about the process of having an interim member. Kianna heard nothing back when doing outreach, I spoke to a few classes that had no interest, we reached out to the UNB Woodsmen who had no interest. The captain of the team put out the word to different relevant societies, and there was a little bit of confusion about it. Jorja showed interest in taking on this role after the confusion was cleared. I would like to have a conversation with the council about Jorja taking on this role. This isn't an official motion, just a discussion.
- Warren - I'm just curious, is there anything in the bylaws regarding a situation like this.
- Chair - There isn't, technically the precedent has been that if there is a vacancy, we can bring forward a person with a motion.
- Gaia - Because this would be an interim position, would they be given speaking or voting rights?
- Chair - They would be given full rights.
- Kordell - I know UPEI SU has had situations like this where they have granted full rights to councillors who are appointed by council. It would ultimately be up to council, but this is a piece of content that might be valuable. That's the only other SU that does a formal appointment process.
- Gaia - If it isn't in the bylaws, Policy Committee should be looking at it so that there isn't any ambiguity in the future.
- Chair - Seeing no motion being brought forward, is there any further discussion?
- Sarah - Typically we have a candidate in an election process tell us about the, would we be able to have Jorja do a quick introduction of herself so we can understand her interest in the position?
- Kordell - I grant my speaking rights to Jorja.
- Jorja - I didn't realize this was a position that was open to first years. I have experience in both advocacy and leadership and have wanted to get involved. I have two previous years of university experience in a different program and am really excited to potentially fill this role.
- Minh - Just out of curiosity, why didn't you know it was open to first years? Maybe this is something we should talk about?
- Jorja - I know personally, a lot of the social media pages that put this forward only said second or third year so I never put my name forward.
- Annie - Just as a follow up question to that, was that a clubs page or an SU page?
- Jorja - I think it was mainly the ForEm society pages.

- Gaia - I'd like to motion that this is brought to policy for further consideration in the future.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that Policy Committee is assigned the task of looking into councillors by appointment.
 - Mover: Gaia
 - Secunder: Sean
 - Notes: No discussion.
 - The vote passes. Motion carries.
- Gaia - Do you think that a deadline should be set to hold Policy Committee accountable?
 - Sangeet - By next council meeting?
 - Annie - I want to recognize that it is exam season, so it's important to recognize people have prior commitments.
 - Minh - How long of a process is this?
 - Kordell - It would probably consist of, depending on the size and consensus of the decision made by council, a few hours of research that I would look into and what other SUs do in this circumstance and reporting that to the Policy Committee. It's hard to tell exactly, it theoretically can be done in a week but it depends on how conversational it is.
 - Sangeet - The reason I see that the deadline is best to be done right now, is that people will be so scattered it's hard to bring up the discussion over winter break. Then by next week we could have a result if the deadline is set as next Sunday.
 - Sean - Kordell, does the Policy Committee have an opportunity to meet before the 15th of January?
 - Kordell - I can imagine it wouldn't be too difficult. I work throughout the entire holiday break, and can conduct that research over the break. It just depends on what the conversation is like to have it done for the next council meeting.
 - Sean - Given that, I think we can make a better informed decision over the next week.
 - Alexa - Could I suggest doing the second meeting in January? I do recognize that some people might be going home from the holidays and would give a change to people to put forth a best informed decision?
- Chair - In the interest of organisation, there have been three amendments proposed to the original motion. Where there are three proposed amendments to this, we will do this through secret ballots for all three and announce the final date proposed. Please email your vote to me on which of the days you think should be set as the deadline.
 - Kordell - Are folks voting to a specific date, or which of the three options.

- Chair - Let's do preferred date. December 4th, January 15th, or January 22nd.
- Chair - The results of the secret ballot are showing for a date of January 15th, which is the results of the amendment. Now to vote on the full discussion.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that Policy Committee must report to council on it's findings regarding councillors by appointment on January 15th, 2023.
 - Mover: Chair assumed
 - Seconder: Gaia
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes. Motion carries.
- Chair - I would like to head back to the discussion regarding Jorja.
- Sarah - Since this position isn't going to go through the election process, how are students going to be aware of their new representative?
 - Chair - You are responsible for making the body that you represent aware that you are on the council. The onus would be on the specific individual to show that they are in that position.
 - Warren - I would make that motion.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that Jorja Smith is appointed as the Forestry/ENR Councillor for the 2022/23 academic year.
 - Mover: Warren
 - Seconder: Abby
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes. Kordell abstains where council oversees him. Motion carries.

5.6. Ratification of the Nels Anderson Society

- Isabella - This is a group looking to get ratified as an undergraduate sociology group. Their constitution looks okay, and they don't have any issues with an existing group on campus.
 - Abby - Do I need to abstain because I'm president of this society.
 - Chair - Yes.
 - Motion: Be it resolved that the Nels Anderson Society be ratified.
 - Mover: Isabella
 - Seconder: Keri
 - Notes: No further discussion.
 - The vote passes. Abby abstains. Motion carries.

5.7. Recognition of the Jewish Cultural Student Association

- Isabella - Another group reached out to be recognized, where they are a religious group, we recognize them not ratify. Everything looks good, nothing is wrong with their constitution. We don't give funding to them, but they can participate in events.

- Motion: Be it resolved that the Jewish Cultural Student Association be recognized by the UNBSU.
- Mover: Isabella
- Secunder: Jordan
- Notes: No further discussion.
- The vote passes. Motion carries.

5.8. Faculty Councillor Updates

- Warren - I had my check in with the chair. I also attended the regular meeting of the Law Student Society in my capacity as an SU representative. There is still discussion with the accommodations that I brought up with the discussion of the Dean of Law about the accommodations process. The Law Student Society president asked me to be a liaison with the SU for those discussions.
- Emily - I had my check in with Josh and the VP Academic.
- Keri - I also did my check in with the VP Academic. The computer science association just had their extra life tournament this weekend that raised \$2500.
- Molly - Nothing to report.
- Shayna - Nothing to report.
- Sarah - I worked with the EUS Peers on Careers event, setting up meetings with the EUS to talk about their events, and a self care event before exams. Most students are experiencing issues with Academic Advising sessions and course registration.
- Bradley - Undergraduate Education students are in their intermediate practicums that end on December 23rd.
- Sean -
 - Ridhi - Thank you for helping out with the finance week, I can incorporate the stats into wellness week.
 - Amanda - Are you planning on sharing this information with the administration and the presidents office? Counselling services, eating well, and all the information you collected is really important data to push to administration to do important things on campus.
 - Sean - It was the intention to put it on my website, and send it to the executives to put forth to council. But I can also bring it forward to higher up administration apart from the council.

6. Reports to Council

6.1. Vice President - Events and Services

- Met with two Forestry students to help them apply for funding for the community garden.
- Met with Matt and Miriam about a positive event during the first weekend after classes start in January.
- Had my regular check-in with my Food and SafeRide Coordinator.
- Met with the President of the Exhibition grounds about their snow FROlic and having students included in this event.

- Molly and I catch up regularly about event plans like the battle of the bands this coming Saturday at 3PM and the winter carnival. We met with Ski & Board club on Friday evening as well.
- Lucy the Food Coordinator and I met about the Food Bingo this coming Monday evening at 7PM.
- Attended the executive meeting.

6.2. Vice President - Research and Policy

- Attended advocacy week for CASA. I had meetings with people such as the Senate Opposition Leader, MP Jenic Atwin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, and more. This took most of my time this week as I took part in around 2-3 meetings a day along with check-ins.
- We got a shout out in the house of commons which was great.
- We were able to get approved to hold Poli Strat in Fredericton next year for CASA.
- Have been continuing to plan MLA Monday and MP Tuesday. I discussed with Jenica some logistics in Ottawa.
- Sent some follow up emails to individuals whom we had meetings with for advocacy week.
- Have been doing final touches for MP Tuesday and MLA Monday happening this week.
- Prepared for our meeting with the Minister of Health, Bruce Fitch on Wednesday. We also have our meeting with Jill Green, the Minister of Housing on Thursday.

6.3. Vice President - Communication

- Updated scholarships/sponsorships page and the community resource page to include alumni material.
- Updated councillors page with new bios and photos.
- Updated council section with all new members names and email addresses.
- Made minor edits to the website homepage adding newer images.
- Updated hiring page of the website.
- Designed and posted final elections posts and stories.
- Added all giveaway entries to spinner and announced the winner on the instagram/facebook stories.
- Archived elections pages on the website and edited it to display "no election".
- Touched base with Martha (graphic designer) surrounding instagram stories and materials for wellness week. Events and times were passed on tonight.
- Reposted photos throughout the week of Rose and Kordell at Advocacy week and updated CASA instagram highlight to include these stories.
- Updated and posted MLA Monday and MP Tuesday stories.
- Edited and posted photos from October's Policy Forum Event.
- Scheduled and posted stories for the Breakfast Program and Food Bags for both UNBSU and UNBSU Food accounts.

- Spent an afternoon completing interviews in Saint John with the Appointment Committee for the Associate Vice Provost Student Affairs and Services and reviewed documents & resumes/cover letters of applicants.
- Completed check-ins with Videographer and Graphic designer surrounding upcoming events and submitted timesheets.
- Emailed council members surrounding headshots.
- Uploaded photos from the camera to the drive. Uploaded all photos and videos relevant to communications from my phone to the drive (ex: orientation, kick-off, sustainability week, finance week)

6.4. Vice President - Finance & Operations

- Held a check in with my clubs and societies coordinator
- Sent out some more sponsorship emails in regards to Red Awards
- Met with Autumn from the Environmental Society in regards to a technical issue with the sustainability fund.
- Reached out to some clubs in regards to updates I wanted from them.
- Approved events.
- Helped Annie with the gift card giveaway.
- Held orientation interviews for the new O-Chairs, we have two candidates we plan on hiring this week.
- Starting RED interviews this upcoming week.
- More of a chill week.
- Won the election
- Will be taking over Jills role for council.
- Started going through council things where I have taken it over, trying to figure out what I am doing.
- Did a council transition with Jorja, our new Forestry councillor.
- Did two RED interviews with Annie, going to hire Jhanvi.
- Trying to hire an Orientation chair.
- Meeting with the Science councillor today.
- Emailed the Selections Committee in regards to the interviews coming up with VP Academic, as we want to get it done as soon as possible.

6.5. Vice President - Student Wellness

- Had 6 meetings with the different stakeholders for wellness week which included Fablab assistants, Miriam from Student Services, Saint John Ambulance, ArtZone, URec, and a few more internal organizations (clubs and societies). Our wellness coordinator, Halle May, and I met to discuss ideas, and we have planned to host around 6-7 in person events, and some others that are in collaboration with Finals@UNB. I won't go into the depth of these, keeping the time in mind, but if you have any questions, feel free to email me.
- Worked on volunteering form for wellness week which will go out in our newsletter. I will also update the council asap with the event timings and dates so that you can decide when to volunteer.

- Have been speaking with Annie and updated the planning document from the logistics aspect for promotions of the wellness week. And, I have been doing some shopping errands for materials for these events.
- Met with Kartik to discuss their current roles as International Student Representative and Multicultural Initiatives Coordinator and how they can look like for the rest of their term in terms of the projects and the Cultrual Week. Katrik, if you have any questions, please reach out.
- Met with Emily, in her role with CSASA, to continue our conversation about Sex Week and our collaboration.
- Briefly spoke to Anahi Alvarez, STU VP Student Life, about Sex Week.
- Joined a meeting with Molly, Amanda, and the team of Ski and Board Club to talk about Rail Jam.

6.6. President

- Followed up with Minister Jill Green's office and scheduled a meeting with her for next week.
- Sent out an elections email, submitted hours for our Secretary, and answered emails, and responded to the situation addressed earlier.
- Developed my Board update presentation for CASA, and presented my update to membership.
- Attended question period, and we had a parliamentary reception.
- Had 8 advocacy meetings: MP Dave Epp, MP Wayne Long, Senator Jim Quinn, MP Viviane Lapointe, MP Jenna Sudds, MP Salma Zahid, MP Tracy Gray, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. All of these came with a pre-meeting, and a post-meeting.
- Had an entire day of CASA Advocacy Training and our plenary where CASA welcomed a new member - a college in Ontario!
- Rose, Julia from STUSU, and I presented a bid to host CASA Policy and Strategy in Fredericton next year, and we won the bid!
- Lots of CASA Board stuff and supporting CASA Home Office as well as membership - daily Board meetings, checkins with delegates, etc.

7. Announcements

7.1. Councillor of The Month - November

- Chair - Please fill out the survey linked in the agenda. Last week we awarded Kate the Councillor of the Month for October.
 - Sangeet - I wasn't able to open it.
 - Chair - It might be set to only UNBSU emails. We'll update that and then next week we can let the council know who won for the month of November.
 - Amanda - Are we going to do a December councillor of the month?
 - Chair - I don't really know. I didn't plan on it, but if we're open to it, we can.
 - Kordell - We didn't do a September one.

- Kordell - I just want to highlight how effective our Advocacy is this week. We had meetings with the departments at UNB, city administration, an entire caucus, MPs, Cabinet Ministers, and the Prime Minister. We've hit every level of government in our advocacy. This is the stuff that we are doing, and conversations that we are having. When students ask, we can tell students that we had 130 meetings throughout one week. There's a lot going on. It's not super linear, so it's hard to update on Advocacy, so we don't talk about it every time. This isn't normal, and it's a really amazing accomplishment.
- Rose - MLA Monday is happening tomorrow, and MP Tuesday is happening on Tuesday. Please come out, it's happening in the 103 in the SUB.
- Annie - Thank you to everyone about headshots, I think I've caught up to replying. I would really love to have more of you on there. I'm really flexible.
- Chair - I had attended an Internal Case Competition from the Business faculty earlier this week. There was an overall opportunity for networking, and I met with recruiting officers from different companies. It happens every year, normally twice a year, but it's not just open to people in Management Faculty. To councillors, please encourage your members to attend in future years.
 - Ridhi - Is this a one day event?
 - Chair - Two day! You do workshops, a company teaches you the ins and outs of their company, and the second day takes place at the Wu Centre and we are able to present a solution to a case. There was a lot of recruitment.
 - Patrick - I got an email saying one was cancelled, was it applying as an individual or applying as a team?
 - Chair - I'm not sure of the specific details about that. I would reach out to BAUS to get more information on that.

8. Other Business

- Alexa - I just wanted to discuss the student assistance program. It's quoted on the page that it's unlimited counselling, and a student I know was paying for insurance was quoted as having a long term issue. The counselling apparently only covers short term counselling so the student was refused counselling services essentially.
 - Kordell - So you mentioned the student assistance program, if we still have information on the website about that, it is a complete oversight. We cancelled our contract with the SAP because it costs us \$40,000 and only had 8 uses last year. It's far too expensive to keep for only 8 uses. We took that money and used it to support the evening counselling services.
 - Amanda - Could you get us a picture of the screenshot please?
 - Alexa - I saw it earlier this week. Just to clarify, we have stopped counselling through this? Did we announce this at all?
 - Kordell - It was announced to council, and I believe it was announced in a newsletter. Counselling services was more effective and students

already knew about that, and they have significant demand. It wouldn't've been announced in some way.

- Kordell - Could I ask that you follow up with us still? Regardless, it sounds like the language they were using wasn't appropriate, if that's the way our insurance providers are speaking to students that are reachign out.
- Annie - I'll fix it on the website! I'm sorry for the misunderstanding.

9. Adjournment

- Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU council meeting for November 27th, 2022, be adjourned at 9:00PM AST.
- Mover: Chair assumed
- Seconder: Sean
- Notes: No further discussion.
- The vote was taken using unanimous consent. Motion carries.

Kaitlin Calder
Secretary

Samuel West
President