

MINUTES – 8th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2020/21

November 29, 2020; 7:00 PM via Zoom

Absent: Cameryn Smith, Emmanuel Chris Louis



1. Call to Order

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair, calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1.1 Roll Call

Aodhan Murphy performs roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 049-20

That Council adopts the agenda for November 29, 2020

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

Seconder: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

The motion is carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: “Before we get into the approval of previous minutes, I’ll speak on behalf of Dominyka. It sounds like her computer got severely damaged this week, so we’ll have to delay the approval of minutes for November 22 to our next Council meeting. Therefore, we can go right into Councillor Updates.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Councillor Updates

Annaka Roscoe, Off-Campus Councillor: “I don’t have too many updates. This week, I’ll be meeting with the Internal Affairs Committee.”

Breana Andrews, Indigenous Student Councillor: “I sat on the Advocacy Committee meeting this past week.”

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor: “I sat on a Student Disciplinary Committee hearing.”

Fareeha Quayyum, Inclusion Councillor: “I sat on an Advocacy Committee, and I also had a meeting with Angela from the Human Rights office about my councillor project to discuss next steps and contacts.”

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women’s Councillor: “I also sat on the Advocacy Committee this week. I have a Women’s Center board meeting coming up and an Internal Affairs meeting as well.”

Mia Scalabrin, Accessibility Coordinator: “I had a few meetings last week such as the Advocacy Committee meeting, Wellness Week Committee meeting, and a meeting with Melissa Ghanem to discuss my councillor project and wellness week in general.”

Nihla Hussain, International Students Councillor: “I had a meeting with our MCI Coordinator, Mehak Khurana, regarding co-hosting two mental health panel sessions for international students during wellness week. I also had a meeting with him, Melissa Ghanem, and Khaleem Shaik regarding the Multicultural Gala next semester and events for International Week. We’ll also be meeting with the ISS Coordinator, Bhavya Malhotra, to rediscuss events for international week as COVID-19 has changed a lot of things in the past few weeks.”

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications, states she met with the rest of the team to discuss how COVID-19 and changes due to COVID-19 impact their jobs.
- She then made a new page on the UNBSU website for bi-election candidates. She notes that this will help students have a centralized location for consistent information about each candidate.
- Deanna put out an update about sexual violence on UNBSU’s social media pages. She also posted new resources on the UNBSU website. Deanna thanks Melissa Ghanem for her help.

- Deana states that she worked on the giveaway results and cross-checked the requirements. She picked a winner, and the winner has claimed their prize (a NESPRESSO machine).
- She put out the first video for Vishnu Vardhan's "Study with Me" series.
- She put out a post for the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- She sat on the Student Disciplinary Committee meeting.
- She made a contest form for the by-election. However, she notes that ITS Services are unable to add that to the voting forms right now. She states that Seth Corner will be working with ITS Services to have the general elections' contest forms up and running.
- She put out a reminder about polls opening at midnight. She will be promoting this more and encouraging students to vote. Also, she posted a reminder about the referendum question.

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life, states that he has postponed the drive-in Christmas movie because we are now in the orange level. Vishnu notes that he will try to make the drive-in happen once possible to do so safely.
- He has been working on trivia for Wellness Week. He will be working on this more with Melissa Ghanem's Wellness Team.
- Vishnu and Melissa also met with a few students to discuss COVID-19 resources for students in isolation. They are looking at what they can do regarding logistical and mental health support. Vishnu notes that they received excellent feedback from students, which they'll try to implement as soon as possible.
- He had his update with Brennan to discuss changes made to the committee description of the policy. He hopes that after he meets with the DrinkSmart Committee, he'll be able to debrief.

- Vishnu and Adriana had a meeting with the SLIC (Student Legal Information Center) Senior Coordinator as they still need to hire a Junior Coordinator.
- He will also be meeting with representatives of BMO to hand over the signing authority for the food bank account.
- He will be working with Liz (SafeRide Coordinator) to work on the SafeRide Operational Plan. As we have moved into the orange level, they will have to make changes that reflect that transition.
- Lastly, Vishnu plans to edit the second “Study with Me” video to get it out during the exam period.

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Adriana Lefort, VP of Finance & Operations, updates Council that she has been looking into financial support for students dealing with the impacts of COVID-19. She’s contacted Shelly Clayton from the Financial Aid Office and Danielle Smith from the Student Sustainability Office. She’s looking at setting things up and meeting with Deanna Merriam next week.
- She’s contacted all clubs and societies to cancel their in-person events because of the Orange Level.
- She’s been working on getting logistics set up for honorariums for councillors and coordinators.
- Adriana met with Gillian McLean about the hiring of a Chair and Vice-Chair. They’ll be waiting until next semester to hire due to the lack of applicants.
- Applications for DC have closed. Adriana and Vishnu will be meeting with the previous DC, Anthony, to start the hiring process.
- Adriana had prepared for the city meeting this week, but they cancelled this due to a power outage.

- She had an NBSA meeting to discuss concerns with Melissa Ghanem and Patrick from SRC.
- She answered general questions from clubs and societies that mainly concerned the impacts of COVID-19.
- She sat on the Student Disciplinary Committee.
- She notes that if anyone knows any law students interested in being SLIC Junior Coordinator, that will most likely be open next year.
- She looked into townhouse financials and financial for the international students gala.

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal, states that she had Senate this week and a Pre-Senate meeting with all the Student Senators. She highlights a few key things from these meetings: they decided to extend the pilot project for reading week by two years (meaning two more years of the reading week are guaranteed). Also, they passed the scholarship proposal conditionally with a review from SUSC.
- She notes that the survey that Sean and her put together is now closed. They got over 1200 responses. She's been sorting through these responses and collecting data to share with all aspects of admin.
- She contacted Kathy Wilson regarding COVID-19 and how they can support students. She's also set up a drop-in session with Matt Maclean for students isolating to help keep them.
- She contacted the SRC and the Academic Subcommittee about a credit/no-credit option. The Academic Subcommittee met this past week to discuss it and voted against it, but then the Saint John Senate tasked the committee with looking at it again. They'll be deciding this coming Tuesday.
- Grace and Melissa met with the President's office on Friday regarding sexual violence on campus.

6.5 Vice President – Advocacy

- Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy, updates the Council that she's been working on a final NBSA Lobby Season and CASA meetings with different MPs and Senators.
- She attended a CASA disciplinary meeting, and they voted her as a national member of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee.
- She got a post out with Deanna regarding International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women. She notes this has several resources and services that are accessible to students in the community and on-campus.
- She had an Advocacy Committee meeting.
- She met with the Wellness Team and finalized all the events.
- She met with the Food Coordinator and Mehak Khurana, Nihla Hussain, and Khaleem Shaik regarding a session for international students who may be isolating while attending university. They also discussed the Multicultural Gala for the upcoming semester and how they could have this online.
- She planned for the COVID-19 orange level. Specifically, Melissa notes she looked into how UNBSU can support students and what supports already exist in the community. She reached out to external contacts/community services. She notes that the Red Cross offers call supports for students who need a check-in. She also looked into how Student Services and UNBSU can collab to support students. Melissa will put out a survey for students regarding their experience with self-isolating and public health. She hopes to have this out next week.
- Lastly, she met with the Presidents office.

6.6 President

- Sean Mackenzie, the President, states that he attended the Advocacy meetings for both CASA and the NBSA. He believes they went well.

- He met with UNB Security to release a safety app in the coming months (tentatively December).
- He attended CASA and reviewed their financials as their treasurer.
- He reviewed the SU Operational Plan to make sure staff is following orange level guidelines.
- He met with Seth Corner to go over the referendum and to get recommendations for the Policy Committee. He plans to meet with the Policy Committee this week.
- He hosted the referendum forum. He notes that it had a good turnout. He also states there was lots of engagement.
- He helped STUSU host the weekly David Coon office hour and notes it went well.
- He attended the meeting with Adriana and Jillian about O-Chair and Vice-Chair.
- He will be sending the Policy and Adhoc Committee the Orientation Bylaws and Constitution.

Aodhan Murphy closes Reports to the Council.

7. Announcements

Sean MacKenzie: “Just a reminder to make sure you share the post about the election and try to get students to vote. We would greatly appreciate it. Better turnout is always appreciated.”

Aodhan Murphy closes Announcements.

8. Question Period

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Resolution 050-20

That Council adjourns the meeting.

Mover: Lidia Shibre, Student Senator

Seconder: Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women’s Councillor

The motion is carried.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Secretary: _____

President: _____