

# Minutes - UNBSU Council Meeting

## UNB Student Union 2022/2023

October 23, 2022; in-person meeting



Present:

- Kordell
- Rose
- Annie
- Amanda
- Isabella
- Sangeet
- Kianna
- Amy
- Kate
- Emily
- Keri
- Luc
- Gaia

Not Present:

- Rayleh
- Warren

Regrets:

- Ridhi
- Jill
- Shayna
- Zach

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

### 1. Call to Order

*Chairperson, Josh, calls the meeting to order at 7:08 PM AST.*

#### 1.1. Roll Call

*Chairperson, Josh, performs roll call.*

### 2. Approval of Agenda

- *Amendment suggested by Kordell that item 5.4 be moved to item 5.1 while the council remains in the quorum.*
  - *Motion: Be it resolved that the agenda for October 23rd, 2022 is approved with the proposed amendments to move item 5.4 to item 5.1*
  - *Mover: Chair assumed.*
  - *Secunder: N/A*
  - *Notes: Vote to take place using unanimous consent. No further discussion.*
  - *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**

- *No general remarks.*

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

*Motion: Be it resolved that the minutes from October 16th, 2022 be approved.*

*Mover: Chair assumed.*

*Secunder: N/A.*

*Notes: Vote to take place using unanimous consent. No further discussion.*

*Unanimous consent. Motion carries.*

## **5. Substantive Business**

### **5.1. Conditional Appointment of DCRO**

- *Emily - As you all know, we have been looking to appoint a DCRO, and we have only had one person apply. They are first-year and very well-versed in their previous commitments and involvements. Our only concern was that they haven't even had the opportunity to vote in an election yet, so there is a lack of experience with how UNB elections are conducted. So the Selections Committee's recommendation is that we appoint them as DCRO, but keep Kordell as interim-CRO due to the lack of experience.*
  - *Motion: Be it resolved that Drashtant Varma be appointed as Deputy Chief Returning Officer at the recommendation of the Selections Committee for the 2022/2023 year, with the condition of President Kordell Walsh continuing in the role as interim CRO.*
  - *Mover: Emily*
  - *Secunder: Kate*
  - *Notes: No further discussion.*
  - *The vote passes. Kordell, Emily, and Amanda abstain/object. Motion carries.*

### **5.2. Advocacy Document 2022**

- *Rose - Kordell and I had an extensive meeting in preparing for Advocacy Week and discussing which asks would be good to bring up in Advocacy Week because of the political climate and the recent cancellation of EI Connect. We have put a lot of attention to intersectional issues within the community. There are a lot of policies regarding international students and Indigenous students. I know the document doesn't look pretty right now, but we wanted the content to be approved by the council while Annie puts together the graphics.*
- *Kordell - Rose did a fantastic job with this. She ran it through David Emerson, and he said it's one of the best Advocacy Week documents he's seen in recent years. Sean Mackenzie had nothing but great things to say about it as well. It shows the amount of work Rose has put into this, she's spent a lot of time and effort working toward this document and I want to give her credit for that.*

- *Motion: Be it resolved that the Advocacy Document for the 2022 year be affirmed as UNBSU documentation as previously collectively ratified.*
- *Mover: Rose*
- *Seconder: Isabella*
- *Notes: No further discussion.*
- *The vote passes unanimously. Motion carries.*

### **5.3. Affirmation of UNBSU By-election Senators**

- *Kordell - Technically, I am bringing this forward as interim CRO, not President. It's an issue I wasn't aware of until the Secretariat Office brought it forward. There are currently three senator positions open, and an equal amount of applicants. When I sent the names to be checked that they are in good standing with the university and able to be appointed as Senators. The Secretariat's Office got back to me and informed me that because all three applicants are able to be appointed to the senator positions and they are running uncontested, the bylaw is such that they are not put to a vote, but rather they are just appointed. This means they won't be on the election ballot. We haven't found a process to affirm them in the bylaws, but we figured there was no reason to wait for the end of elections given that they will be given the positions. Affirming them now will allow them to engage with the council earlier, and the sooner the better.*
- *Chair - Where this hasn't happened before, and there isn't a race for applicants, we are kind of just recognizing them as student senators where they are already seen as such in the eyes of the Senate Committee.*
  - *Motion: Be it resolved that Council affirm Kisenge Mbagu, Patrick Onianwa, and Heer Pabari as student senators on Council.*
  - *Mover: Kordell*
  - *Seconder: Kianna*
  - *Notes: No further discussion.*
  - *The vote passes. Kordell abstains due to a conflict of interest. Motion carries.*

### **5.4. Update from the Chief Appeals Officer as to an updated 'Application for Appeal' form.**

- *Chair - I met with the Appeals Board to go over the general procedure and it was pointed out to me that the form for an Application for Appeal is outdated. It didn't include the full-time/part-time check box and had the old UNBSU logo, I meant to fix this up a while ago, but it slipped my mind. It's been hyperlinked to the agenda, and there's nothing really to vote on, we just needed to have a discussion on it.*
  - *No further discussion.*

## **5.5. Non-Faculty Councillor Updates**

- *Kianna - A lot of things have been done on my end! I met twice with the Indigenous Student Council so far this year, and we have established bi-weekly meetings, if you know anyone interested in checking this out, we are looking for more Indigenous students on campus to participate. I'm also wondering if there is a place on campus we can occupy for these meetings. I met with Leanne Hudson on STU's Reconciliation Committee, and this year we are going to focus on a more relaxed and less formal space to create more inclusivity and to help focus on Indigenizing the university. We focused a lot of our discussion on what the committee will look like moving forward. As well, because food brings people together, the Indigenous Student Council wants to host a feast in November to help bring people together. We are planning on introducing social media platforms before our next meeting to create better connections with MWC. As for events, there will be a traditional medicine bag workshop on campus in February. Ridhi also mentioned that we have a Wellness Week in April, and we are looking to host a traditional medicine walk to destress during this week.*
  - *Kordell - I don't know for sure the full details, but the Indigenous Student Union/Council/Society is incorporated directly into the bylaws of the SU and my understanding is that they aren't ratified so as to not give the SU much authority over governance. I would love to explore ratification with you if the current structure isn't working the way you're intending.*
  - *Amanda - If you want to send me an email, I can look into finding you some space on campus for your meetings!*
- *Sangeet - I designed the Off-Campus Poster and incorporated a QR code with a linktree so students have access to the main information relevant to off-campus students. It has been sent to Jill for review.*
- *Amy: I have been in communication about some different trends going on with the residences. There's been a bit of a challenge with house committees this year because all of the executives are first years. Harrison is having a big event coming up next week. I wasn't going to be doing a project, but I have an idea that I'm going to email Jill about that would hopefully happen around the holiday/Christmas season.*
- *Kate - The Women's Centre is officially open for full hours, and they have their October Board meeting on Thursday. Just before this meeting, Emily and I met to discuss events for Campus Sexual Assault. My councillor project is looking like it's going to be an extension of my project last year where I worked with a team to install menstrual product dispensers on campus. This year our focus is to make it sustainable, so I applied to the campus sustainability fund and DivaCares and hope to have students be able to apply for certain sustainable needs. We have now officially distributed 2000 products to UNB students this semester, and the MHS is hoping to put some*

donation boxes in high-traffic areas. We are having some trouble with Becky from the SUB, and we got a fairly negative response as a continuation of when we first installed the dispensers and she didn't allow us to put in a poster to indicate products were available in the SUB. I wanted to bring it up to see if anyone has some advice or insight.

- Kordell - I'll definitely follow up with you about the issues with the SUB.

#### **5.6. A discussion on (1) Student perceptions of the purpose and importance of the UNBSU and (2) how the UNBSU can address their perception**

**\*Note: This item was tabled until Gaia was able to attend, this discussion happened after item 6 was completed.**

- Gaia - I would like to begin by stating that this discussion is not solely kept to the executive, but is something that I believe all councilors and members must account for and begin answering. We, as a student union, exist to serve the students and provide a safe, caring learning environment and ensure that such students don't face any form of abuse from the university or others on campus. Now, I would ask you all, rhetorically, what do we hear when we ask students what we do? We hear of parties, events, concerts, and maybe menstrual products. Sometimes we hear of services like SafeRide. Never do we hear about lobbying the university or government, never do we hear fighting for tuition reduction, never do we hear of student EI or other genuinely important actions. The result of this is that, once elections come, we get 9% of students voting, down from 22% pre-pandemic. We get no interaction, we get no volunteers, we get nothing. This has become a serious problem, and we need to fix it. So, I want to open this discussion on this. We need to ensure students actually know what we do, actually vote, and actually care. So, I want to ask the council, how we address this. Because something needs to be done, or we are going to face serious problems.
- Sangeet - So, as you mentioned, we are famous for events. As we try to share the information about what the council does, we could try to share the information in the form of these events to do a fun information session on why we might be useful.
- Gaia - I just want to clarify, this isn't the fault of our communication team. It's our fault that we just haven't talked about this.
- Amanda - I think even to touch on that, I definitely agree. We have councilors that aren't going to events and if you aren't doing that, are you really engaging with people about your role? It's about how we communicate with people and what we put in, we try to share everything going on. But we are all stressed and it starts with us sharing information with each other.
- Sangeet - And this is something I do for my part and this is something I've done previously. I try to attend UNB events as much as possible and what I do there is whenever I meet students and mention I am a counselor and share what I do and if there are any concerns to let me know. It is a good practice

for anyone in the SU to lobby for your position. Share your role and share how you can help.

- *Amanda - I think also that Kordell and I had a conversation and recently spoke to one of my classes and part of it is stepping in front of your class and being proud of what you're doing and we can get students talking about what we do and the conversation is starting.*
- *Kianna - I think a lot of people are scared, and it's so formal. A lack of experience can kind of push people away, so a warm welcome, and I can't stress this enough, might be enough to get people interested. A formal environment can push people away.*
- *Chair - At this point, Kianna and Amy have to leave, so we are going to lose quorum. I'm going to suggest that we finish this conversation after we finish the Reports to Council, and the minutes will be submitted as a Report to Council for next week. This means we would move to item 6 now and then adjourn afterward as we need a quorum to vote to adjourn. This means we won't be able to add anything to item 8 or item 7, so if you need to add anything to that it would have to go with next week's agenda.*
- *No additional discussion.*

## **6. Reports to Council**

### **6.1. Vice President - Communications**

- *Created a candidate page on the website with names and blank headshots. Updated candidates page with photos and bios and updated website banner to redirect. Created and posted a social media post and story for the new candidates page.*
- *Created and distributed a bi-weekly newsletter*
- *Created and posted information for new Halloween events (social media posts, stories, and an Eventbrite banner). Created volunteer posts for events and "need to know" posts to be posted*
- *Created sustainability week giveaway winner story and recap post. Posting this week.*
- *Started working on graphic design for Advocacy week documents. Currently 8 pages in.*
- *Met with student services and interviewed the last graphic designer option. Onboarding a graphic designer hopefully starting this week. Met with the Student Experience team surrounding Ballroom Boo Bash.*

### **6.2. Vice President - Research and Policy**

- *Had a meeting with student services alongside the executive team.*
- *Finished writing my speech policy forum.*
- *Finished editing the slides which will be presented at the policy forum.*
- *Had a meeting with PETL to discuss our policies for Advocacy Week.*
- *Had a meeting with Kordell to finish drafting the Advocacy Week document which will be given to stakeholders.*

- *Booked a few more Advocacy Week meetings, including one with Premier Blaine Higgs.*
- *Had a meeting with Annie to go over graphics for the advocacy document.*
- *Sent out many emails to advertise MP Tuesday happening this Tuesday.*
- *Had a meeting with David Emerson, the special adviser to the president to show him our Advocacy document.*
- *Took part in our weekly executive meeting.*
- *Have been working on presentations for our four-hour-long training session with volunteers for advocacy week.*

### **6.3. Vice President - Finance & Operations**

- *Met with Miriam about the hiring of the new orientation team, going to put out the description as soon as possible.*
- *Held a few SafeRide interviews and finally found someone who met the new insurance policy, so we hired them.*
- *Did two graphic designer interviews with Annie and hired one.*
- *Had three interviews for the Wellness Coordinator and Ridhi and hired one.*
- *Met with two clubs to discuss some of their questions.*
- *Did an ACE interview with Amanda and hired the interviewee.*
- *Attended a monthly leadership meeting on Friday.*
- *Working on the sponsorship package.*

### **6.4. Vice President - Academic**

- *Spent more time working with councilors on their projects, I believe Shayna's is the first one that will be happening in completion, just in time for Halloween, and I am so excited to see her work pay off with such a nice event for the Arts students.*
- *Reached out to some individuals in regards to presenting to our incoming council members.*
- *This week the Senate nominating committee met for the first time, and all of our student appointments were made. This meeting went over time and we will be meeting again this coming week to finish up our agenda items.*
- *Had to appoint a new student to the Senate Review Committee, this was previously me but I can no longer serve in that role as I am now a member of SS&P.*
- *Was in conversations with Sarah Devereene this week about our incoming Student Senators and their roles, as well as our current committees with student representatives.*
- *Had a quick chat with Kordell and Ridhi about reporting software for sexual assault survivors that have been mentioned to us.*
- *Participated in work with the selections committee, we hosted an interview and a debrief session for the candidate presented in this meeting.*

- *Reviewed and worked on editing drafts from the Nominating Committee, and the SRC (Senate Review) hearing that I took part in at the beginning of September.*
- *Participated in a really good meeting with Kordell and Rebekah from the LSS, it was wonderful to develop a connection with her and the LSS. We discussed accessibility concerns in the Law faculty and some issues with registration that Law students are facing. We will be continuing to look into the issues discussed and keep them in contact with her and our Law counselor, Warren.*
- *Attended the monthly Student Services Meeting, we had a longer meeting this month which allowed us more time to discuss.*

### **6.5. Vice President - Student Wellness**

- *Had a couple of interviews for SU Wellness Coordinator. Met with Isabella to discuss our notes and we agreed that Halle's experience will be a great asset to the role.*
- *Met with Anahi, STU VPSL, about the Student-run Business Fair event. Reached out to the students who expressed their interest in joining the fair to seek their confirmation.*
- *Spoke with Kordell and Jillian about REES, an online reporting platform, tailored to the setting of post-secondary institutions.*
- *Brainstormed ideas for Wellness and Cultural Week.*
- *Attended a workshop by Startup Communities to brainstorm more ideas for Finance Week.*
- *Had a meeting with Kartik, the Multicultural Initiatives Coordinator, and another one with Kianna and Kartik about Cultural Week.*
- *Dr. Lantz added me to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.*
- *Continued working on Finance Week - spoke to volunteers and I am preparing certificates for the events.*
- *Things coming up - Meeting with David Foord to gain his feedback on a few ideas for Finance Week.*

### **6.6. President**

- *Sent follow-up emails to people we haven't heard from for advocacy week*
- *We got confirmation of a meeting with Blaine Higgs!!!*
- *All candidates meeting for extensions*
- *Wrote my letter for the advocacy document*
- *SS&P*
- *Worked through advocacy week document with Rose*
- *Health Emergencies bi-campus steering committee - I misunderstood the state of the covid policies...will be exploring removing restrictions in hallways, nowhere near settled on masks. Seemed a bit more split than I expected.*
- *Community Post-Secondary Relations Committee*
- *Wrote speaking notes for the NAGSFA presentation, and confirmed I will do 2 presentations in Ottawa - NAGSFA and ICCSFA*



- Meeting with the LSS re: accessibility and course registration
- REES Meeting
- Read the Canada Student Loans Program policy manual
- National Advocacy Committee, we have a theme and a brief idea of the topic for the campaign
- Student Services meeting
- CASA Board meeting
- Podcast re: EI Connect
- Approval of campaign materials, etc.

## **7. Adjournment**

- Motion: Be it resolved that the UNBSU Council Meeting for October 23rd, 2022 be adjourned at 8:05 PM AST.
- Mover: Chair assumed.
- Seconder: N/A.
- Notes: No discussion.
- The vote passes by unanimous consent. Motion carries.

Kaitlin Calder  
Secretary

Samuel West  
President