

MINUTES – 5th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2020/21

October 25th, 2020; 7:02 PM via Zoom

Absent: Emmanuel Louis



1. Call to Order

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

1.1 Roll Call

Aodhan Murphy performs roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 029-20

That Council adopts the agenda for October 25th, 2020, with the amendments to add item 5.6, the Brunswickan, item 5.7, Vice-President Finance & Operations, and switch the order of items 5.1 - 5.3.

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor

The motion is carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Resolution 030-20

That Council approve the minutes for the meeting of October 18th, 2020.

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Sean Mackenzie, President

The motion is carried.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Discussion of 2020 By-Elections

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Hey everyone, so I will be making a motion to give speaking rights to the Chief Representative Officer (CRO). He and I have been discussing the bi-elections, and we both had a couple of questions that we wanted to gauge with the Council, just seeing that this year is very different. He wants to gauge the opinion of the Council before making any decisions."

Resolution 031-20

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

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

The motion is carried.

Seth Corner, Chief Representative Officer: "I hope everyone is well. Sean and I have been discussing because it's a strange year for elections. We're discussing the number of nominations for positions. For example, First Year Councillor, first-years are not in-person. It's typically 25 signatures needed for a nomination form; we wondered how Council would feel about a reduction in that number? The same goes for Residence Councillor and possibly others such as Forestry and Engineering Councillor. For this bi-election, VP Advocacy would stay at 25, given that it's a big role. I think 25 signatures are appropriate for that position. We want to gauge the Council's opinion on if we were to reduce that number of names needed if there were any opinions on that?"

Sean Mackenzie, President: "One thing we have to be extremely conscious with though is the first-year rep. The first years have not had much of a chance to meet each other, but we still want to make sure we have that representation. My thoughts for first-year rep would be anywhere between 5-10 signatures. I realize that's a low number, but I do want to gauge your opinions."

Madeline Smith, Nursing Councillor: "I'm wondering whether you discussed the possibility of switching to an online option for receiving signatures?"

Seth Corner: "Yeah, so we've been looking at fillable forms so people would be able to get it via email and fill it on the form, and I'll be calling names on the nominations list to make sure people signed it. We're working on Adobe to have them Fill & Sign forms. Even then, we would allow them to drop off the signed forms at the Welcome Centre. Also, they can send it back online."

Madeline Smith: "Okay, I just wanted to make sure all students would have access to these."

Seth Corner: "For sure. We'll put these up on the website too."

Katelynn Pickel-Macdonald, Women's Councillor: "I feel like having a lower amount of signatures is likely the best option. Some students may feel discouraged having to ask many people that they don't know to sign their form. It's hard enough being a first-year, let alone if you haven't met others in person."

Seth Corner: "I have one other quick question/point of clarification. We still think we'll allow people to make and put up posters on campus in buildings that people are allowed in. We were wondering if Council would be okay with the idea of no physical handouts. This would be more in-line with COVID-19 rules. In the provincial election, I don't know whether candidates were allowed to pass out materials. If people would like to put posters up, that's fine. We are wondering what the Council's thoughts are on actual handout materials?"

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor: "I was just wondering, if possible, for students who aren't on-campus, would it make sense for them to be able to ask you folks to throw up a couple of posters for them? So that they aren't at a disadvantage."

Seth Corner: "We haven't discussed that; however, it could be a possibility. I don't know if I could do that in my role, as that might be inappropriate. We could have someone else do that, so we'll look into it. I think that's a fair question to ask."

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "We want to be careful we don't give preference to one candidate over the other. If we're going to allow one candidate to post their material for our social media, website, etc. then we have to do that for all candidates for the sake of being fair. I also want to add that based on what I've seen, the possibility of having posters on-campus is not encouraged. The University doesn't want to attract people on-campus, nor do they want materials handed out."

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor: "I completely agree with Adriana. This year there aren't as many students on campus, so I wonder if it will be beneficial for them to have posters on campus. If we can eliminate the risk, it might be best not to do it."

Seth Corner: "We were discussing that, but we also have to think about the fact that it's within the right of our election bi-laws that they could campaign on-campus. You're correct though, it's also about risk assessment, so we appreciate the comments. They will go into the decision-making process."

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I just wanted to mention too is that a fair way we could go about it without putting up posters for others would be to hand them over to Becky at the Student Union Building (SUB) as she would put them up within the SUB. We could look at that option as well-providing the posters to Becky and then her put them up."

Seth Corner: "That's certainly a possibility as well."

Katelyn Pickel-Macdonald: "I thought Adriana had a perfect point. If we leave it open and have a deadline for candidates saying that if you give us all your information and your poster, then the

SU could make a FB post with all of them together. So then it's at least getting to the student body on who's running for each position."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "In terms of handing out material, I don't have any objection to prohibiting that for this election. We often have many people running in their second year of UNB Saint John while in the Engineering Society. Because of this, our rule is that we don't touch it at all; we ask them that if they have a friend in Fredericton that can put posters up for them, that's the best way to do it. Yes, it can be a bit of a disadvantage, but it keeps election officials out of the process entirely."

Lidia Shibre: "Back to the first question, I think Sean mentioned either 5 or 10 signatures. I work with a lot of first-year students, and they truly don't know anybody. I would say five signatures is a perfect number."

Sean Mackenzie: "Thank you, everyone, for your input. The by-election will be a good test run for our general election seeing as it will likely be a very similar situation. Seth and I will likely be meeting within the next week or so to make these decisions."

5.2 Faculty Councillor Updates

No update from Christopher Arisz, Faculty of Law Councillor.

Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Councillor, presents that she has been working on her Councillor Project.

Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor, states that she has been working with first-year students as she is also a Peer Mentor. She also sits on a Faculty Committee, has met with Grace Pelkey, and has been working on her Councillor Project.

Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor, presents that she's working on some anti-racism initiatives.

Matt Douglas, Science Councillor, reached out to Science Societies and planned on compiling their events/initiatives into one streamline resource that the science students can use.

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor, has been meeting with a few professors from the Faculty to discuss the Dean's List Awards "Dinner."

Xiuming Shi, Renaissance College (RC) Councillor, made an infographic for RC students that discusses what the SU is, how to get involved, etc. and hopes to get this up on social media soon. She's also attended plenty of meetings and worked on an Academic Panel. She also participated in a briefing of previous events and upcoming events.

5.3 Presentation of Revised Budget

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "As I've previously mentioned, this year we have a lot of changes in the budget due to this year being unique. Five thousand four hundred students are what we have for enrollment. Our Health and Dental are unchanged. Our sponsorship revenue has to go with our SafeRide sponsorship and the sponsorship we have with Saint Thomas University (STU), so we decreased what we charge them this semester because it is starting a bit later due to COVID. All their programs are online, so they have less usage of the program. 11,102.50 is what came in from the Student Agenda Sponsorship. We won't make any Drink Smart revenue due to a lack of events. The Paper Trail income has remained the same since last year. The entertainment revenue was the same as Drink Smart, with no revenue coming in due to a lack of events. The Sustainability Fund is based on the number of students enrolled in the University. Book Buy & Sell is not possible this year, so there's nothing there. Student Emergency Bursary Fees is also based on the number of students enrolled. Orientation Revenue is the \$80 fee we charge students for participating in Orientation, which went down a bit this year. Total revenue came to \$1,791,212.50.

We're now moving onto the Administrative expenses section. Our office expenses went up a bit as we boosted it based on needing different software to run, and the cost has been needing to go up anyways. Insurance did go up as we had to absorb some of the Cellar's insurance costs. Accounting & Audit Fees stayed the same. The ITS Service Contract stayed the same as did Automated Payroll Expense. Advocacy. The NBSA and CASA charges stayed the same. Advocacy Programs were lowered as there aren't as many things to be done in-person. The Internal stayed the same.

The Councillor Honoraria stayed the same. Councillor Orientation had no cost because it's online. Councillor projects stayed the same. Grants & Contributions. Campus Services Grant stayed the same. The Sustainability Fund increased as it did in the Revenue section. Food Subsidy Plan stayed the same. Student Emergency Bursary went up based on the number of students.

Health and Dental stayed the same. We boosted the SU Campaign & Promos a little. The amount for the Welcome Centre's rent went down because it wasn't open over the summer. The amount for conferences went down substantially. However, we did keep it at \$5000 in case there are any local conferences. We decided not to renew our COCA membership based on the concentration of large, in-person events, and we didn't believe it to be useful for this year. Administrative expenses are the same. We boosted Transition as it usually does end up costing more than \$500. Reserve Funds, we decided to put a little more money into it. We also boosted Elections as we may need to do many online promotions. There should be a lot of push to go out and vote.

Orientation went down substantially, and we are looking to make up for that in the Winter as students did pay for that. The Book Buy & Sell, as I stated previously, isn't happening this year. The UNBSU Recognition Awards Banquet did get boosted as we are looking at possibly hosting this in-person. Drink Smart received a budget as they are going through a rebranding. RED Awards is a sponsorship. The staff budget stayed the same as did the president budget, summer

salaries for VP and academic-year salaries for VPS. Part-time employees went down as there won't be as much welcome centre staff. I will go over the Services Related Honoraria later on. Student Services. Entertainment went down as we don't expect to spend as much because there won't be big in-person events. We can still hold some things such as small in-person gatherings that follow COVID-19 guidelines. Student Legal Services goes along with the amount to pay the lawyer. Paper Trail stayed the same. SafeRide went down a little bit. Clubs & Societies funding mostly stayed the same; however, I'm still receiving requests for clubs to host events, so this will probably rise. The UNB student union agenda stayed mostly the same. Our total expenses come to \$1,728,403.82.

We did end up having a surplus this year, which there are a lot of things we're looking at doing with this. We are looking at it as an advantage as we can now look into doing long-term projects that the Student union has previously wanted to do but did not have the financials to do. There are a couple of projects in mind if anyone wants to elaborate. Right before I take questions, I just want to go over the Service Honorarium. In the Honoraria Budget, we have the added position of a Student Engagement Coordinator. We'd like to add this position to help out the Interim VP Advocacy with hosting online events and engaging students. We removed the Academic Programming Coordinator as there's no Book Buy & Sell. Our Shinerama Chair resigned, so there was no Bonus for that position. I'm happy to take any questions."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "I'm just wondering if we'll be able to get a copy of this? So we can go over it in more depth if we want?"

Adriana Lefort: "Yeah, also, I am all about making our budget as public and accessible as possible this year. I will get you a copy, or it will be public on our website."

Luc Bouvier: "Fantastic. I also wanted to ask about Orientation and how you lowered that amount if you're able to answer that tonight."

Adriana Lefort: "I can go over it briefly. Students spent money, so we did want to give out prizes. Costs included the prizes we gave out for many of our events, programming, paying our Shinerama Chair, etc. Our Black Shirt Honorarium comes out of there. Those were the general costs; however, if you want more specifics, I can get you the rundown of everything."

Luc Bouvier: "That would be great. I'm sure you guys mailed out orientation kits to people too. It just seems like a huge number not to have it broken down a little bit more. The last thing I wanted to ask you about was SafeRide usage, and is it still being utilized well by the student body?"

Adriana Lefort: "I believe so. I believe our first day of operation was October 1st. Vishnu can correct me if I'm wrong here. I've heard it's being used, but again, I'm not the one managing this, so if Vishnu wants to comment on the operation of SafeRide?"

Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: "I sure can. We started operating SafeRide as of October 5th. We're only operating two vans as one of the vans that would stop at Head Hall is not running as the Head Hall Library section is not open yet. We're in the process of getting the board so students can see when the Vans depart and arrive. That being said, from what I've heard and seen is that it seems like vans are available almost every single time, and there hasn't been a situation where someone is waiting for a van to get home from campus."

Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor: "This is just a minor thing, but could you scroll up to Elections? What do we have to do for this year that would cost \$1000?"

Adriana Lefort: "So the cost for Elections is not for printing posters. Typically, that's up to the candidate, I believe. This year we'd like to increase voter turnout. We know the turnout is not typically that great, and with people not being on-campus this year, it's not going to make getting turnout any easier. We're looking at having incentives to encourage people to vote, so we have a budget for the bi-election and the election in the Winter semester. The cost is an incentive for students to vote. We haven't decided on an exact thing; however, in previous years, you could put

your name in to win a pair of AirPods. As much as I hate to say it, incentivizing voter turnout is sometimes the best route. This cost would also include an online promotion."

Resolution 032-20

That Council approves the revised budget as approved by the Finance Committee.

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor

Sean Mackenzie, President: "I just want to note that when Adriana had said 'future long-term projects,' I will make sure that we discuss the projects with Council before any commitment or implementation.

The motion is carried.

5.4 First Reading of Amended By-Laws

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Last week we tasked the Policy Committee with giving a better definition of what the Indigenous Student Counsellor and Student Union are. As we went through this and continued the conversation with Breana Andrews, who will likely fulfill this role, we started discussing what we have authority over as the SU. Realistically, we don't have a lot of authority over the Indigenous Council because we're a separate entity. We moved the Indigenous Student Council section from the Interpretation section as it's not an interpretation at this point. We define 'the Indigenous Student Council as a community of Indigenous students that will provide different views to the Indigenous Student Councillor so that they can daily represent Indigenous students at UNB.' That's the definition of the Council. The next recommendation we had come to was that it would say, 'In the event of a consistent lack of participation among members of the Indigenous Student Council, the Indigenous Student Representative may consult with the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre and the Piluwitahasuwin for support in decision making and increasing participation.' The reason for this is because we didn't want to overtake or overstep the position. Similar to a lot of roles. I will also add the question of, 'What if we don't have a

representative? What if we don't have the Indigenous Student Council?' Our thought process there was that there could be several situations where this may happen and if that's the case, then want to assure that that year's Council can take the approach they want; we don't want to bind them to a specific course of how to do things. If anyone has any questions, feel free to ask as I know this is quite the change compared to what the Council tasked us with."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "I'm still confused about the makeup of the Indigenous Student Council. Because they aren't going to be a constituent part of the Student Union nor the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre, so, is it overseen by the Indigenous Student Representative?"

Sean Mackenzie: "Yes, and I believe so. Breana, do you want to speak more about this?"

Breana Andrews: "I'm the head of the Indigenous Student Council. Therefore, I'm responsible for communications. Any issues that are brought up from Indigenous students would go to me to present to the Council. My position doesn't have to make any decisions on behalf of the Indigenous community based solely on my opinion."

Luc Bouvier: "That makes sense. How do students become a member of the Indigenous Student Council?"

Breana Andrews: "What I did was I put out there that we're looking for anyone interested to join the Council. There are no requirements or prior experience to join. It's for those who want to know more and be involved in the community as a volunteer. We put out the volunteer posting to the MWC, which was sent around in a weekly newsletter, and I put it out on my social media platforms. I had also hoped to have it on the Student Union website, but that never happened."

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "If you go to the Interpretation section, it essentially stated that the Council could determine which body would appoint the Indigenous Student Councillor, provided that it is a representative of the body. If it becomes dysfunctional during the year, then

the bylaws make it clear that they are not bound to represent the students. It seems like all your bases are covered here, and it explains how the Council would go about replacing the body that would appoint the Indigenous Student Councillor."

Sean Mackenzie: "I believe that that's the old version of the bylaws. We didn't continue with that portion because we have no way of guaranteeing that Housen? or MWC will aid with that. We don't want to bind any future group to go by a certain set of rules. Realistically, we don't want to predetermine what to do for this section, given that we're reliant on outside sources."

Luc Bouvier: "So in that case that you mentioned earlier, if there is no Indigenous Student Representative and there is no defined Indigenous Student Council, the Council would be free to decide to appoint a new Councillor and put out a call for people to join a new Council?"

Sean Mackenzie: "Yeah, we would want to give them the freedom to decide the next approach rather than put a set system into play where those options may not be available. We want to ensure that we communicate properly. The methods may change over time. As we see, UNB tends to change things up. Breana, did you want to add anything?"

Breana Andrews: "Are you asking what happens if there's no representative?"

Luc: "Yeah, or if there's no one on the Indigenous Student Council or if we can't get in contact with the Indigenous Student Council? Where would Council go from there?"

Breanna: "The way I explained it to Sean by using the example of how I ended up in this role. I got 'voluntold' by someone else who was resigning from their role. We're aiming to move things forward because it takes a more traditional approach as the person who is older than you takes the way of mentoring you to give you the competence to take on the position. That's what happened to me. At least for the next couple of years, I don't think we'll have any issues with this method as I've already had people tell me that they're interested in this role. If years down the road, you

don't have someone in this position, then Council can put the call out, and I know MWC wouldn't mind you asking them to put up promotions because they have better outreach."

Aodhan Murphy: "Regarding Section 22 in the new Bylaws, the Indigenous Student Council appoints a new Indigenous Student Counsellor; if it became unrepresentative halfway through the year, it says that 'Student Representative may consult with the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre and the Piluwitahasuwin for support in decision making and increasing participation.' Where Student Council is the body that defines what the Indigenous Student Council is if you needed a more representative group halfway through the year. Council wants to have leeway to intervene to create or mandate a new body; it could do that. I don't think anything is stopping the Student Council from redefining or relabeling the Indigenous Student Council halfway through the year to a more representative body. At least, I believe you could do that under this provision. Does that sound like something you would want to allow?"

Sean Mackenzie: "Technically speaking, you're right. Realistically, the Council has full authority to make any changes they feel necessary. How much time we have to do so is the real question. If the Student Council felt they needed to redefine it, they could, perhaps, per Policy Committee. I think it comes down to how it's interpreted at the time, and I think, in this case, it does leave leeway."

Breana Andrews: "The way the Indigenous Council works is if it wasn't a fair representation or there were issues part way through the year, the Councillor would be able to put out a call out for more volunteers. If I didn't get any, then the Student Council could. You could intervene if you had to (if I had not received any interest)."

Sean Mackenzie: "I would argue that that's the last step in that kind of situation. That would be a worst-case scenario."

Breana Andrews: "Exactly. I just wanted to clarify that the Council would be the last to get involved."

Resolution 033-20

That Council approves the Amended By-Laws.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

The motion is carried.

5.5 Bus Pass Referendum Discussion

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Student bus passes seems to be an ongoing discussion with Fredericton Transit. Last year, there was a discussion about an international student bus pass. I've met with Nihla Hussain, the International Student Councillor, to discuss this as I'm not an international student. Therefore, I don't know if this is helpful to that group of students. Last year, the Council imposed a mandatory fee that would require all international students to pay. I didn't feel comfortable with this approach, so I discussed it with Nihla, and she agreed that putting more mandatory fees on international students is not the best idea. I got thinking about another approach. A bus pass would be good to have, so they don't have to purchase a monthly pass-through Transit. It would alleviate the parking issue to a degree. I met with Fredericton Transit, and we discussed it. We came to discuss 'what if we had it set so it was mandatory for one group and the rest could opt out?' We thought about making it mandatory for first-year students, the reasoning being first-year students when they arrive on campus, they don't bring a vehicle. Those that don't, which is a large number, would have access to this bus pass, and even those who do have a car would have access to the bus pass. It would get students familiar with the transit system and get the City willing to invest in Transit around campus. The cost that they quoted for first-year students (who don't have an option to opt out) was \$165 from September 1st to April 30th. Standard monthly bus pass fees are \$55/month, so students are getting a few

months for free. For upper-year students (in 2nd year or higher), they would pay \$200 but have the option to opt-out. If students decide 'I love this bus pass,' they can keep it, but if they don't, then they don't have to. It's cheaper for the first-year students because they are required to stay on the pass. We wanted at least one group of students to be required to have access because Transit needs to have a baseline of how much money they will get. We have had this discussion many times, and the dealbreaker was always the opt-in/opt-out option not being there. I think this is the first time they've been willing to provide this option. I still have a few questions; therefore, I won't be having a motion at this meeting. I need to ask Fredericton Transit the coverage of part-time students and students outside of the City but are in their first year. Can they opt-out? I want to gauge Council as to what immediate thoughts there might be regarding this topic."

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "If there is an option for students in their first year and outside of the City to be allowed to opt-out, then I think that there should be an opt-out option for any first-year student. There could be several circumstances where a student doesn't need a bus pass. For example, I've lived in Fredericton my entire life, and I've only used the transit system once. I've had my vehicle since my first year of UNB, so I've never needed to use the transit system. I don't know if this would be a good decision. If you allow out-of-town first-year students to opt-out, then why wouldn't other first-year students (possibly those who have access to a vehicle) be allowed to opt-out?"

Sean Mackenzie: "With that, Adriana, I will say that the reason for those out-of-town students to opt-out is because they have zero access to the service. They would never be able to use it. They want to make it mandatory for all other first-year students to guarantee an amount of money they will make. That was the only way I could get them to agree. Again, this decision would be up to the students and wouldn't be a council decision. I would recommend this be a referendum considering it impacts all students and is a significant amount of money. Fredericton Transit

didn't want to budge into more of a fully opt-out system just because they can't guarantee a certain income and can't have a set price."

Adriana Lefort: "I just want a little more clarification. You're saying that 'out-of-town' is defined literally as outside of city limits?"

Sean Mackenzie: "Yes, exactly. I'll have more details next week after speaking with Fredericton Transit one more time. If we decide to go ahead and have a referendum, then I'll have the exact question prepared next week (we'll have the wording prepared). One thing to do to ensure that we're getting good voter turnout for this is to clarify that this would be in the bi-election. We don't want a voter turnout of 5% or lower, which decides this at a high cost. I recommend we have a campaign on this topic, basically saying what it is and explaining this to students and answering questions from students as we move towards the bi-election period."

5.6 the Brunswickan

Aodhan Murphy: "The link of the Brunswickan article is in the chat for anyone who would like to see it."

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor: " On October 23rd, the Brunswickan published an article that was titled 'Open Letter to the Brunswickan: My Experience with the UNBSU' which was about Kelsi Evans. I can read it if you would like me to, but it is in the chat if you want to take a look. I think something should be brought up regarding Kelsi's open letter and what was said.

As a representative of the SU, I want to encourage people to become involved with the SU, but right now, I'm not sure if I feel comfortable doing so.

I have been involved with UNBSU for the past three years, and with that, I have worked closely with multiple executive teams and councils. After reading the contents of the complaint report

brought to Council earlier this year; however, I was going to say something after the discussion ended because Kelsi resigned, I didn't say what I maybe should have. Now I am regretting it.

Now, I am not BFF's with Kelsi or anything, although I would love to be as she's a wonderful girl, I am coming from an outsider's perspective, and I feel that it is essential to note. After reading the complaint report's evidence and the multiple conversations between executives, I find a lack of respect, professionalism, and inclusivity in communication between the team, which is devastating and honestly awful to see. In previous years, that was something so important. I believe that even to attempt to make amends with what has happened; the UNBSU should be making a statement which expresses that the Executive acknowledges the lack of professionalism, respect and inclusivity with this year's executive team and that there will be a tremendous amount of effort into amending past events and creating a progressive path forward for the remainder of the academic year. As is mentioned multiple times during meetings, my job as a councillor is to keep the Executive in order and held accountable. Therefore I want to see action in improving the communication and proof of doing so, and I believe this is only touching the surface of the issues at hand."

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Thank you for bringing this up, Molly and of course, once we'd read the article, we agreed that we do plan on making a statement. We have been in talks with the Brunswickan about that. We're going to be working on this statement shortly. I will add that we are taking the next steps with our Chief Representative Officer to further look into what was brought up. It's important, and I won't deny that we should look into this. We're taking our next steps, and as we go through, we'll update the Council. I will state that Seth did meet with the Human Rights Office throughout this process to receive advice from them, and one piece of advice he had been given was to talk to all of the executives to ensure that they reviewed it. I believe all of our Executives had spoken with the Chief Representative Officer. He told me directly that if there are any red flags, he will bring them to the Council. I told him that's

reasonable and that I want him to. He is the most impartial third-party that we get. He is not accountable to me; he is accountable to the Council, the same as our Chair and our Secretary. He spoke to all of us and our General Manager and is currently looking at everything, and if he notices anything that is a red flag, he will bring it up to Council. As of right now, we are looking into this. We will also take further action."

Molly Pittman: "Awesome. That's great to hear that you are taking further action because I feel like I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't bring this up and hold you accountable."

Sean Mackenzie: "I appreciate that, Molly. You're right, and I just want to clarify to all councillors that we report to you. It's not the other way around, so thank you, Molly; I appreciate you bringing this up and adding it to the agenda because I feel like its a discussion we all needed to have. We shouldn't be ignoring this subject."

Christopher Arisz: "I'm not sure what's going on right now with this. I've just read the article, and I know that something was going through the Code of Conduct Review Committee, but otherwise, I have no idea what's going on. I get the impression that this is something personal between executive members. I'm uncomfortable with the statements going back and forth and the open letters when I have no idea what's going on. I feel very in the dark."

Sean Mackenzie: "With this, as you know, we did meet as a Code of Conduct Committee when the complainant filed the complaint. There wasn't a timeline of anything that occurred after that. We had the report done up by our Chief Representative Officer, or in this case, the Chief Conduct Officer (CCO), presented the amended version to Council as approved, and we put it up on our website. We then selected our Interim. I had spoken to Ally Buchanan about the story. There's nothing I can think of that's happened in the background. I don't want to interpret the letter one way or another because I don't want my thoughts to intertwine with my professional thoughts."

Professionally, I think that this needs to be looked into and addressed no matter what. I'm not sure how I can offer more clarity in regards to this topic as not much has happened regarding this subject until the Brunswickan released the article."

Chris: "Thank you, Sean. My last two cents is that I wouldn't want personal things to be dragged into the official business of the Council or be on the record."

Katelyn Pickel-Macdonald, Women's Councillor: "When the letter came out, I went through the formal complaint report one more time, and something that was never raised was point 9a) to 9h) are all blacked out, as well as a couple of sentences throughout the report. I was wondering if that was going to become available at some point or if it's going to remain confidential?"

Sean Mackenzie: "We do have provisions in our Bylaws that protect certain individuals and certain case scenarios. I know it's backwards to show the names and then not show the complaint, especially where it all came as one. We couldn't show the details as this section was under one of those provisions. I will note we blacked out the hiring process because our hiring process tends to remain confidential for the business' sake; however, this was all done properly. I want to offer full transparency to the Council, so I'm thinking of the best approach for that in this situation. One part blacked out in another section is a personal statement about someone's own experiences that they didn't feel comfortable being shared publicly. After review, Seth and I, and the rest of the Committee who had approved it, felt this was reasonable. These are all blacked out because they're supposed to be per our policies, and if you go through our Human Resources Policies, you can see what it's referring to. I also don't want to give specifics as there are a variety of things in the policies."

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "I just want to add too that where this is filed as information, it would procedurally be tricky to make a motion to refile it with those redactions, and we would have to do that for the policy anyways. It's easier, if you want, to elaborate on certain redacted

sections, to have Sean or another person say it on the record in a Council meeting. Again, you have to be careful about what you can and can't say."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "I will echo the concerns of Christopher that this could go to a personal place if there's a lot of back and forth on this. Any messaging that the Student Union puts out makes us cautious that this doesn't turn into the airing of dirty laundry. Regarding how the Executive handled this situation, I sympathize with the executive members who were named in the report. It appears it went through the proper channels regarding executive accountability and disciplinary action. I struggle to see a concrete case for a great degree of unprofessionalism with how Executive dealt with the situation."

Sean Mackenzie: "Thank you, Luc, for mentioning that. Regarding airing the dirty laundry, that is not going to be our intent when we do make a statement. I appreciate the reminder not to do that because I know when there are things like this being said, it can be tough to separate personal feelings and professional feelings. If somebody says something about you, you might feel you automatically want to respond and not think about the consequences. However, you're right, and we are representing the SU in this situation, which was 100% business side of things. I don't believe this was personal against anyone. We intend to ensure it stays professional. I don't want to guarantee the direct approach we will take until the Executive has met and discussed this."

Molly Pittman: "Luc and Chris, I don't want this to be personal or airing the dirty laundry either. I saw the article, and my goal with this was to hold the Student Union accountable so we can better our practices as that is my job as the Management Councillor. I think the best business practice would be to release a statement."

Sean Mackenzie: "Molly, I completely agree, and you are doing your job by doing this. I 100% agree. Like I said earlier, I'm thrilled you added this to our agenda today. I think we are keeping this professional, and I recognize that we need to look into this and see if there are further steps

we need to take with the CRO. We will be making sure we are taking further steps, and a response will occur; again, I'm not sure what format that will be. We will have something, and the executives are meeting about this shortly to see the next steps."

Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor: "In response to Molly, I'm wondering in respect of trying to keep things impartial and on a professional level, would it make more sense for the Council as a whole to provide a statement, rather than it being directly from the executive?"

Aodhan Murphy: "It's probably more appropriate for the Executive to respond. The Council could provide some guidance on how to go about it. Typically, that would be the course."

Sean Mackenzie: "Yeah, I would agree with Aodhan. In the end, I'll be straightforward. Anything with the Executive typically falls on me, and then anything with me falls on Council. I see where that could play in a bit. If the Council has any directive they'd like to give us, we will consider it. I wouldn't say we should have Council write the statement because this incident directly involves and is towards the Executive, and so we should respond as the Executive. I see where you're coming from; however, I'm going based on what Aodhan said as well as the points I just mentioned. Does this make sense?"

Madeleine Smith: "Yeah, it does. Thanks."

Sean Mackenzie: "I also want to add that if anyone wants to set up a meeting to discuss the perspective as the person who's overseeing all the VPs, I'd be willing to meet with people. If you have specific questions you want to ask, I can try to help, however possible. Don't hesitate to email me."

Aodhan Murphy: "I'll also mention that when we file the report as information, typically if it were unredacted for us when we saw it, we would go in camera, discuss it and then the Policy

Committee. Where we redacted the report, we did it publicly, we would reserve in-camera for fairly unique circumstances, but it is an option."

5.7 Vice-President Finance & Operations (VPFO)

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "I just wanted to bring this back up because I know we spoke about it last week and talked about bringing it up this week along with further information. I do have a bias because I'm currently sitting in the role, and given that students elected me. I did want to open up this conversation, though. I did some research on the side of hiring and how it would work. I believe Sean was doing some research as well, and I know he has a different perspective on this, so I'll let him discuss this first if he's okay with that."

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Looking into it, from an internal perspective at least, I looked through the Drive a few times as I was confused as to why I couldn't find anything there. I looked at last year's Advancement Committee. There was nothing there regarding this role. The only things I saw there were discussions on ALPS, etc. I do know Adriana took the liberty of looking into things herself. I also believe she has a few things she wants to say, and I believe that Sam Arsenault, former VP Finance & Operations, is here to discuss this. At the discussion point last year, Sam was supportive of this."

Adriana Lefort: "I went into my reasons why I think the position should be elected rather than hired. I looked into other universities and reached out to other institutions looking at how their positions are structured and why they decided to do hired rather than elected positions. I reached out to multiple institutions across the country. I want to go into a little bit more detail on my perspective. My main point is that voting rights in the Council are an aspect that I feel is important to Council. When you remove that person from being voted in, they lose their voting rights. They aren't able to make motions or second motions. I think this is a factor to consider. I know there are different opinions, so if anyone wants to speak on this, feel free to."

Katelyn Pickel-Macdonald, Women's Councillor: "I went into the January 25th Council Minutes from last year, and in this meeting, Council brought up this topic. Craig Fernandez said this very well, so I will directly quote, 'Some things work differently on different campuses and it depends on the campus culture and a lot of other variables. We are the only Student Union in the country that has elected VP Finance. When you are looking at the Union's longevity, it is perhaps a threat because someone with no skills or ability could be in the position and do a lot of harm to the money.' I feel like when I was speaking last week, this was my main point. It's not a personal attack about anyone; it's the fact that the VPFO is dealing with nearly two million dollars, and one VPFO who doesn't have the proper skills could really set back the Student Union for many years and also affect the lives of students."

Adriana Lefort: "I have two points regarding that. When I researched two different people with the VPFO title, I looked at how their position is structured and what their responsibilities are. A good example is Cape Breton University, where they do hire their VPFO. However, their VPFO does hold voting rights. Giving voting rights to an employed position isn't democratically right. Students don't vote for them, and yet you're allowing them to have voting rights."

In regards to having control of the financial aspects, a big part of that is I don't have full control over every financial aspect of the Student Union. I can't even make an expense without having two signatures on the cheque, which the President also signs. Karen Miner, General Manager, is also signing the cheques. Anything in regards to spending or the budget goes through the Executive Committee, the clubs & Societies Committee, and then Council. There are so many steps that we need to consider. We are not leaving it in the hands of one person, the VPFO, in this case. Katelynn mentioned the financial risk is not as relevant as it may seem because there are multiple steps for approval."

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor: "I have a point to make in terms of the VPFO, if hired, would have no voting rights. If we outlined the financial obligations that were on the point of conversation during Council, then Council members should be able to make an informed and educated decision."

Sean Mackenzie: "I would like to hear Sam's thoughts on this, so I'll make a motion to give Sam speaking rights."

Adriana Lefort: "Is it possible to give him my speaking rights?"

Aodhan Murphy: "I believe it's possible to give him max five minutes."

Adriana Lefort: "Okay, I'll give my speaking rights to Sam."

Sam Arsenault, former VP Finance & Operations: "I was the VP of Finance & Operations for the Student Union last year. I have prepared a statement, so I'll read that off first, and anyone can ask me questions regarding my stance after that if that works?"

'Dear UNBSU Council, I believe that the role of VP Finance & Operations should continue to be elected rather than Transition into a hired position. The argument for making the role a hired position has always been risking mitigation for the Student Union. The role does handle a large sum if mismanaged, could result in legal ramifications and other liability held to the position and the Student Union. While this concern is, on the surface, valid, I would argue that it does not fully consider the structure of the Student Union when pushing for the role to be transitioned into a hired one. The structure of the Student Union has safeguards in place to ensure that no dollars are spent without proper thought and oversight. It has operations in place to ensure that the budget is constructed fairly and that it is being adhered to. No spending within the Student Union can be done without at least two specified individuals signing off on any transactions. In this regard, the signing authorities are the VP Finance & Operations, the President, and the Student Union

General Manager, Karen Miner. At least two of these individuals need to sign off on any given transactions ensuring that no student money concerns any malfeasance. The budget is constructed by the VPFO along with the SU General Manager to ensure that accuracy in the budget throughout the year. It is then reviewed by the Executive and finalized by Council where it is then voted on its fairness and legitimacy. The process occurs multiple times per year to ensure that a proper budget is being adhered to, and no money is being misspent. I believe that these protections are more than enough to ensure that any mistakes or even intentional wrongdoings can be caught and properly dealt with without any adverse consequences. There are also reasons I believe that the role of VPFO should remain an elected official outside of the discussions of safeguards and spending. The VP of Finance & Operations is involved in every aspect of the University and the student union. They are involved in every single project and initiative in at least some way. They are aware of any university structures involved in spending. They are in on the conversations that can affect the student union's economic and financial future as well as UNB as a whole. They are also the primary liaison between all student groups and the Student Union, giving them the largest student opinion input at the entire University. All of this involvement means that the VPFO has an incredibly in-depth knowledge of the University and the Student Union that could only be rivalled by the President's position. This knowledge and experience make it paramount the VPFO has a large voice on Council and can vote on matters that will shape the SU. Fixing the role to a hired position would remove the power of their vote on Council, which I find unacceptable for a position that holds such knowledge about the institution's inner workings. Based on the safeguards in place in the Student Union to help stop any harmful spending or misleading budgeting as well as the importance of the VPFO's role on Council, I strongly believe that the role should continue to be elected. Does anybody have any questions?"

Katelyn Pickel-Macdonald: "I was just wondering, Sam, over time and at what stage did you realize you thought it should stay as an elected position instead of hired?"

Sam Arsenault: "So last year I toyed with this idea. The recommendation to make this position was one that we got from the executive previous to mine. In my findings throughout the year, I realized that the importance of the vote on Council and how much weight it carries with the position. THAT'S I ultimately never pushed for this change last year. I supported it remaining as an elected role. It was during the Winter term last year that I came to that conclusion. Up to that point, the Executive was still toying with the idea."

Katelyn Pickel-Macdonald: "I'm also wondering if you think that an elected position versus a hired position would be more accountable for the VPFO when it comes to the stuff such as transition reports. I know you had a horrible experience with your transition report, and do you think having the position hired may also improve the Transition and how hard people work in making sure that their successor is going to be successful in how they hold useful information?"

Sam Arsenault: "I don't believe that it will. I think it just comes down to the individual and how they're willing to transition to the next person. As you said, I didn't have the most wonderful transition experience. I also know that other hired positions within the Student Union have had even worse transition experiences. I know people who have had wonderful transition experiences. I think it comes down more to the individual in the role rather than the sense of duty to it based on election versus hiring."

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: "This week, I've had several meetings with the Student Experience Team as well as individual members to talk about passion projects to bring to the team later.
- I've been researching student engagement initiatives to improve our online engagement in terms of social media challenges and outreach.
- I've been working with one of my SET members to set up recurring yoga events in collaboration with the engineering undergraduate society and UREC. I'm excited about this and promote physical and mental wellness no matter where they are in the world.
- I met with Melissa to discuss upcoming initiatives and posts.
- I made hiring content for the Orientation Chair and Co-chair.
- I met with Sara Rothman and other university student engagement employees to talk about collaboration.
- Finally, I updated the Clubs & Societies website to add new recognized/ratified clubs."

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life: "This is what I've been doing over the past week.
- I've had my coordinator check-ins. We will continue to have weekly check-in meetings from now on.
- I had a brainstorming session with Sara Rothman from Student Services, Adriana Lefort, Bhavya (Townhouse Coordinator), and Matt MacLean, Krysta Lee-Kinney from Res Life, and Steven McCluskey from Res Life, to see what sort of events we can do.
- I attended the Nursing Students Diversity Competency and Awareness Panel. I think it was a very positive experience as I had lots of fun chatting with them.
- I also had a meeting with Melissa for a video series that we want to launch over a reading week so that people have the motivation to get studying if/when they can. I hope to

announce this soon. We will go on campus tomorrow and scout some nice spots to film this.

- Right now, we're in the phase of gathering resources to put into programming for Drink Smart.
- SafeRide sponsorship packages are still in the works because I need to update it.
- Lastly, the website also needs to be updated. Once it's ready, I will send it to Deanna to look over and update."

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "As Vish previously stated, I was also at that brainstorming session to discuss student engagement outside of academics.
- I met with the Orientation Hiring Committee to look over some changes to O-Chair and Vice-Chair. We looked at any better ways of structuring the roles. I also discussed with the current O-chair, who is Niko Coady, to see if she had any perspective on this topic. After those consultations, I wrote up the job descriptions, sent them out and made sure they were approved. That should be up by Wednesday. Wednesday, we will begin the hiring process.
- I put quite a bit of research on my position and the discussion we had about making VPFO a hired position.
- I met with the Clubs & Societies' Finance Committee to present the budget and look over a few funding requests.
- I had a meeting with the Executive to talk about the budget and add some new things.
- I met with the rep of Labatt Brewing Company to discuss how they're looking at how to reach out to university students' different demographics.

- As I've discussed previously, I contacted the SPSERC Committee. It's been a learning curve this year. We finally decided on how to go about the Cellar, Trivia, etc. and I contacted some clubs and societies to inform them of these new operational plans."

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "This week, I attended a pretty lengthy meeting for the VP Academic Review Committee. I also just want to thank everyone who took the time to fill out that survey who received it."
- I also attended the Students Promotions Committee meeting.
- The Internal Affairs Committee met. After last week, we've been quite busy, so a lot of my time this week has been working on those next steps of what we decided how we wanted to proceed.
- I met with Sara Rothman, Wilfred Langmaid, and a few others to discuss how to boost academic success with online delivery.
- I also met with Sara Rothman again, Caroline Purdy and David Kilfoil, an institutional analyzer, as Sean and I are working on a student experience survey. UNB is extremely supportive about this, and they are excited for us to do this.
- I've been looking into providers for NARCAN training for students. I also sorted out some issues with the student membership on the Accessibility Committee."

6.5 Vice President – Advocacy

- Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy: "This week I made content for the ongoing Pride History Month events; Sean was able to host an event for me when I had an exam. The second event didn't work out, unfortunately."
- I met with the Sexual Diversity Rep from STU to prepare for next week's intersectionality panel. That will be a tri-campus panel with a variety of queer and trans reps and advocates.

- I'm currently finalizing the statement on the ongoing events in Nova Scotia with the help of Breanna, the Indigenous Councillor. I want to apologize for the delay in this post. I want to make sure that the statement isn't just to put something out, but rather to provide context, information, and make sure UNBSU is an ally to the Indigenous people and in particular, to the Mi'kmaq people, and in particular to the students at UNB who are indigenous.
- I want to clarify that the Sexual Assault Prevention Centre is taking students who have been experiencing sexual assault or trauma; however, if it's childhood trauma, per se, they won't take in those students, rather then they will forward them to sexual violence NB. I will continue to make their service more inclusive for all, no matter the timeline of someone's trauma.
- I met with the Health and Wellness Committee. I spoke with Niya about her Councillor project and regarding Wellness Week. We'll be having a brainstorming session soon. I met with the Learning Strategist from the SACK, and we confirmed a session for wellness week.
- I will be meeting with Niko Coady to discuss the diversity action plan for O-chair hiring, and I also will be having my first meeting with the wellness team on Wednesday."

6.6 President

- Sean Mackenzie, President: "I also met with Orientation Chair, Adriana, and others to discuss any changes to the Chair and Vice-Chair positions. These were fairly preliminary talks.
- I met with the CRO to discuss the bi-election, provide guidance there and help answer any questions that he may have. We also decided this year that, given that we have the space to do this, we provided the CRO with the office normally where the Vice-Orientation Chair is, so basically, that gives him a more private work area. This

would also make up for the extra work he's been given this year. If you ever need to talk to CRO, you can always go there.

- I had a CASA BOD meeting, so it was just a formal meeting. We're ramping up for advocacy month for November, where we can't go to Ottawa, we're trying to do virtual meetings the whole month.
- We had a bi-campus Health Committee meeting. PETL discussed a few things, and we also looked at seeing who can support returning students who will be isolating.
- I had the meeting with Fredericton Transit, which went fairly well, in my opinion.
- The Policy Committee met and finalized the changes to the bylaws that were approved for the first reading.
- I met with the College of Extended Learning to discuss adult learners and part-time students. We specifically discussed scholarships. One of the things is that they would like us to continue scholarships for part-time students if we amalgamate ALPS. We discussed the scholarship amount and how it works.
- Lastly, as Grace has mentioned, we met to discuss the survey. I will point out that after discussions with the board, it was clear they were very interested in this initiative, which I believe shows the importance of this survey."

Aodhan Murphy closes reports to the Council.

7. Announcements

8. Question Period

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "Adriana, I know you had a few ideas on how to use that surplus amount of money. Could you please elaborate on the decision making process for this?"

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "We have a situation like this every year, so we'll have to find a different approach to using this surplus. I'm not looking to go out and solely make any big decisions without passing it to the Executive and Council. Like Sean mentioned, if we do

come up with a solid idea, my process would be to go for the research of how does it cost, how does it benefit students, present it to Council, and look to see if they believe this would truly be for the best for students and the best way to spend this money. I don't believe it's right for us, the executive team, to make these decisions on our own, so I plan that if we find something that we believe would be a good idea, we would do the research, look how much it would cost, look into quotes, etc. and see how we can go about this, how it would benefit students and then present Council with our findings."

Aodhan Murphy closes the question period.

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Resolution 034-20

That Council adjourns the meeting.

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

Seconder: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor.

The motion is carried.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Secretary: _____

President: _____