

MINUTES – 9th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2020/21

December 06, 2020; 7:00 PM via Zoom



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 051-20

That Council adopts the agenda for December 06, 2020

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

Seconder: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

The motion is carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Resolution 052-20

That Council approve the Council meeting minutes for November 22, 2020

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor

The motion is carried.

Resolution 053-20

That Council approve the Council meeting minutes for November 29, 2020

Mover: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

The motion is carried.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Faculty Councillor Updates

Christopher Arisz, Law Councillor and Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Councillor, have no updates.

Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor, reports that she's been working with the Arts Faculty Advising Office to help out first-year students.

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor, has no updates.

Xiuming Shi, Renaissance College (RC) Councillor: "I met with Matt Douglas to discuss our Councillor project. I also attended a Student Disciplinary Committee, attended an RC Society meeting, and finished up the wellness packages for RC students."

5.2 Recommendations from Internal Affairs Committee

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "Hey everyone, included with everything else you received this meeting, there was an update from the Internal Affairs Committee in regards to what we tasked them with previously. I do have one motion about executives' full-time status and whether they have to be full-time students. We haven't been amalgamated with ALPS yet, so I believe we can't move until that happens. The recommendation is there, but I won't motion this meeting. My other motion is to approve the suggested name change of the LGBTQ+ Student Representative and for us to task Policy Committee to implement this change into our bylaws."

Resolution 054-20

***That** Council refers to Policy Committee the recommendations of the Internal Affairs Committee meeting that we change LGBTQ+ Student Representative to 2SLGBTQIAP+ Wellness Coordinator.*

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

The motion is carried.

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Is there any discussion on the topic? If you can see from the Drive, we have the recommendations from the Internal Affairs Committee, so we'd be giving the

recommendations over to the Policy Committee. Then Policy brings it back to us for a first and second reading. Therefore, we wouldn't implement these changes until the end of January."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "I just wanted to ask if there were any other names considered by the committee. As a gay person myself, it does feel like the acronym is very long."

Grace Pelkey: "This recommendation is what we received from Cassidy Wilson, the Sexual Diversity Representative. It is also what STU will be implementing into everything they do to keep it consistent."

Luc Bouvier: "Okay."

Grace Pelkey: "We went with the decision that executives do not have to be full-time students if we are amalgamated with ALPS. We don't believe it's fair that they can only be part of the Student Union but can't be executives. Additionally, this is what the UNB SRC does as they also represent part-time students."

Aodhan Murphy: "I believe you can make the motion tonight."

Grace Pelkey: "Okay, I wasn't sure as this motion would be if we are amalgamated with ALPS, and we haven't been amalgamated yet."

Aodhan Murphy: "So did you want to wait as a precautionary measure?"

Grace Pelkey: "I just don't want it to be approved and then ALPS not be amalgamated. Sean, when do we expect the amalgamation?"

Sean MacKenzie, President: "I just received a letter of support for this movement from ALPS, so I just have a few more steps to take. One of them is meeting with the Advancement Committee to finish our letter based on what ALPS wrote. Then, I'll need to bring the decision to the Board of Governors. The amalgamation will require changes in fee collection for part-time students. It's quite a process, so I wouldn't expect everything to be approved before February 2021. At that point, I'll make a motion for the Policy Committee to ensure that everything is inclusive for part-time students."

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I'm comfortable making this motion tonight as long as it's contingent on the amalgamation."

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Let's send it to Policy Committee and bring back that recommendation. Then the Council can approve it whenever they want."

Resolution 055-20

That Council refers to Policy Committee that the executive position description is changed to be any registered undergraduate student at UNB contingent on ALPS amalgamation.

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Sean MacKenzie, President

The motion is carried.

5.3 Position Name

Breana Andrews, Indigenous Student Representative: "Hey everyone, so I recently got to speak to Elders Council on gaining support, guidance, and translations for changing the name of my position. The translation they gave me was Nuci Putawasuwin, which is someone who carries concerns and issues for others and voices them towards a solution. With that, I want to allow for a little more indigenous representation for students. I was going to make a motion for the Policy Committee to review this."

Resolution 056-20

That Council refers to the Policy Committee to rename the Indigenous Student Representative to Nuci Putawasuwin.

Mover: Breana Andrews, Indigenous Student Representative

Seconder: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

The motion is carried.

5.4 December 10th Council Meeting

Sean MacKenzie, President: "Hey folks, I know we were looking at having a meeting on Thursday so we can ratify the election. However, after discussing a bit more, there has been a

realization that we need to allow seven days for any complaint to be put forward if anyone wants to complain about the election. Therefore, I don't believe it would be in our best interest to ratify the election so soon. The other situation we're in is that we are now approaching exam season/final project time. Rather than having the meeting on December 10, the executive felt we should push it to January. We don't want to hurt anyone's exam results or cause anyone stress."

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications, states she started the week off with an executive meeting.
- She then had a sustainability meeting with Danielle and Adriana to discuss food security options.
- She met with the Student Communications Committee to discuss COVID-19 communications.
- Deanna also met with Melissa to discuss the Wellness Week schedule, which she notes is starting next week.
- She met with Grace to discuss what to put out if the UNB Administration decides to consider grade forgiveness.
- She put out the COVID-19 survey for students in isolation and quarantine.
- She put out by-election reminders for students.
- She made the UNBSU Food Challenge post.
- She met UNB Cares' co-presidents to discuss programming for exam season, such as encouraging students to take study breaks.
- She hosted the UNBSU wellness schedule, and tonight there's going to be a "get physical" challenge to have students consider physical wellness over exam season.

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life, states he had the last ACE check-in for the semester with Brennan. He notes that they went over housekeeping. On the subject of ACE, Vishnu met with Deanna to discuss ACE graphics. He notes that the graphic designer has been tasked to work on these graphics. He hopes to finalize them by next semester.
- He had a meeting with Adriana and Anthony Gatto, who was last year's Campus Events Director. They met to discuss what questions to ask the candidates who are being interviewed.
- On Melissa's recommendation, Vishnu reached out to Michelle McNeil, who represents the associate alumni, to see if the UNB Alumni Association could help support students who may be isolating next semester. He notes that Kathy Wilson is creating a support group for these students at UNB SJ. He hopes to meet with them sometime soon.
- Vishnu will be signing the food bank account later this week.
- He was working on the SafeRide operational plan, but he notes that he doesn't have to work on this plan anymore because of the change to the yellow level.
- Lastly, he had a meeting with Melissa's trivia team to finalize logistics.

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Adriana Lefort, VP of Finance & Operations, updates the Council that Shelly Clayton from the Financial Aid Office got back to her with financial assistance available through the Sobeys Gift Card Program (for students looking for support for groceries or gas). They are trying to get more funding for this initiative to be more accessible for students. She notes that there is also a Student Union bursary if that is needed. If anyone needs assistance, reach out to Adriana or the Financial Aid Office.
- She had a meeting with Deanna and Danielle from the Sustainability Office to discuss using the Sustainability Fund for grocery delivery. She notes that one student is looking to use a small portion of the Fund for a sustainability project this year.

- She attended the Student Messaging meeting with Deanna and Sean, along with some admin members.
- She reviewed a conference constitution.
- She and Vishnu had a meeting with Anthony Gatto and DCE and got an insight into hiring. She then set up all of the interviews for the position.
- She set up a meeting with Sara Rothesman after she reached out to Adriana. They discussed helping social engagement for students who will be isolating next semester.
- She addressed a few club inquiries regarding the orange phase and yellow phase.
- She attended the Post-Secondary Relations Committee.
- She began to look into an ongoing HR issue for one of the clubs.
- She set up all of the coordinator's honorariums.

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal, states that she wrote a letter to the Academic Sub-Committee regarding grade forgiveness and sent it to them.
- She had an Internal Affairs Committee meeting.
- She attended a Retail Service Committee meeting.
- She's been organizing all of the honorarium forms.
- She's begun planning council transition for next semester for those who were elected in this by-election.
- She sent out the prizes for the survey that she put out a few weeks ago.
- She's been going through the survey responses.

6.5 Vice President – Advocacy

- Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy, updates the Council that she attended the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee meeting to discuss how the institution will build trust with its students. She also spoke with them regarding the President to ensure that their goals are aligned.

- She prepared for Wellness Week with the help of Deana and Sean. She encourages everyone to participate in Wellness Week activities.
- Finally, she attended the National Equity and Diversity Inclusion Committee meeting for CASA.

6.6 President

- Sean Mackenzie, the President, says that he set up a Policy Committee meeting for this week; however, it was re-scheduled. He sent out a Doodle poll to re-schedule the meeting.
- He also sent out a poll for the Advancement Committee to meet this week and the Adhoc Committee for orientation.
- He hosted the weekly MLA Monday, where they host David Coon for an office hour.
- He also attended the Communications meeting that Adriana and Deana were present in.
- He picked up the survey prizes.
- He contacted UNB Communications about COVID-19 questions that students have. He recommended they make infographics or awareness in regards to these questions.
- He met with the Policy and Research Analyst from CASA to discuss the Committee that he chaired and plans for next semester.
- He also attended the Bi-Campus Health Committee and Self-Isolation Committee and received updates from them.
- He attended BOG on Thursday.
- He met with the CRO, Seth Corner.
- He met with the Retail Service Committee.
- He met with Emmanuel from ALPS. He explains that it is taking longer than expected, but notes he did receive the letter from ALPS and will be meeting with Policy soon.

Aodhan Murphy closes Reports to the Council.

7. Announcements

Sean MacKenzie, President: “Wellness Week is this week so I encourage you all to try to attend when you can and to tell other students about it.”

Aodhan Murphy closes Announcements.

8. Question Period

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Counsellor: “This is a question for Grace: do you know when we might hear anything about the Senate decision about grade forgiveness? Is there a timeline they’ve shared?”

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “Students should be hearing something early this week about grade forgiveness.”

Aodhan Murphy closes Question Period.

9. Other Business

Sean MacKenzie, President: “On behalf of the executive, I want to wish everyone a great winter break and good luck on the rest of your exams/final projects. Make sure you take a well-deserved break.”

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “Please send me your honorarium forms so we can get those to you ASAP.”

10. Adjournment

Resolution 057-20

That Council adjourns the meeting.

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor

The motion is carried.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Secretary: _____

President: _____