

## **MINUTES – 12th UNBSU Council Meeting**

UNB Student Union 2020/21

*February 07, 2020; 7:00 PM via Zoom*

*Absent: Emmanuel Louis*



### **1. Call to Order**

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

#### **1.1 Roll Call**

*Aodhan Murphy performs roll call.*

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

#### **Resolution 090-20**

*That Council adopts the agenda for February 07, 2021.*

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life

Seconder: Abhiiraj Nikram, Engineering Representative

**The motion is carried.**

### **3. Chair's Remarks**

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

#### **Resolution 091-20**

*That Council approves the Council meeting minutes for January 31, 2021.*

Mover: Abhiiraj Nikram, Engineering Representative

Seconder: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

**The motion is carried.**

### **5. Substantive Business**

#### **5.1 Faculty Councillor Updates**

*Molly Pittman, Management Councillor, informs Council that she had her councillor check-in meeting with Grace Pelkey. She also sat on the Selections Committee, where they hired a new CRO and DCRO. Finally, she attended a BAUS Board of Directors meeting.*

*Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor, states that she's been attending faculty meetings. She's also been working with different faculty groups to organize events such as the Arts Matters Conference.*

*Anna Lee Leblanc, Kinesiology Councillor, states that she attended Advocacy Committee and led the Kinesiology Society monthly meeting as she is one of the Coordinators. She also says she will be executing her Councillor project over the next two days. Additionally, she's inviting Kinesiology students to Microsoft Teams meetings to discuss their core courses' learning experiences. She will then create and review a document and attend the Faculty Committee and Academic Faculty Council to discuss her findings.*

*Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Councillor, says she's emailed Carly Jenkins, the Digital Marketing Coordinator for UNB, regarding her Councillor project's positioning. Jharana also updates that she's discussed with the Engineering Representative, Abhiiraj, about the councillor project. Lastly, she attended the Breaking Stereotypes meeting.*

*Matt Douglas, Science Councillor, says he's been working on his and Xiuming's councillor project. They set a draft deadline (last week, which is now extended) and a final deadline (around March break).*

*Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor, informs that she's confirmed her speaker event date and panellists (for her councillor project). The event topic is "Our Healthcare History: How a Racist Past Feeds Our Present" and will take place February 16 from noon to 1:30 pm. She is working with the CNSA Moncton chapter to plan the event communications to go out this week - they are planning to invite nursing students at UNB (Fredericton, Moncton, and Saint John) and students at other schools, and students in health/nursing-adjacent programs.*

*Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor, says he had a meeting with Jharana about potential projects. Abhiiraj suggested having a Discord game with various clubs and societies at UNB. He also had a Breaking Stereotypes meeting. Finally, he had a meeting with VP Student Life, Vishnu,*

*about potential projects. He notes that he is interested in helping out with projects for the winter carnival.*

*Xiuming Shi, Renaissance College Councillor, says she had a meeting with Deanna and Matt to discuss their councillor project's promotions. Also, she attended a Selections Committee meeting, a Policy Committee meeting, and an RCS meeting.*

## **5.2 Second Reading of By-Law Amendments**

Sean MacKenzie, President: "I am open for questions or comments, but won't go over the by-laws again as I did last week."

## **5.3 Discussion of the NBSA**

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "I was hoping to bring forward to council a discussion regarding concerns I have about the New Brunswick Student Alliance and the fees we pay towards this organization. The UNBSU belongs to two lobbying groups that advocate for us on a provincial (NBSA) and national (CASA) level for anyone who may not be aware. We are currently contributing to around 50% of the NBSA's operating budget, almost \$40,000 a year, and do not seem to be getting anything from it. This is an issue, I believe, that has been ongoing for a few years and should be addressed. For comparison, we pay only around \$17,000 a year for CASA to advocate for us on a national level, and we see much more outcomes from them. I just wanted to bring this forward as I believe it is an issue but would like to hear council's thoughts on the matter."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "I have never perceived the NBSA as a beneficial organization. We pay about \$60,000 a year into their budget, and they don't do a lot beyond publishing stuff on social media - which doesn't even get much engagement from students. I am especially concerned that almost all the NBSA's operating budget (and therefore nearly all of UNB's \$40,000 contribution) goes towards their executive director's salary. The NBSA Executive Director is accountable to the NBSA Board, composed of the VPA and President from each

school. Still, these are busy people who can't be policing somebody continually making sure that they are doing their job. There is so little accountability in this organization, and it does not produce results for us.

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I think part of it is how is CASA helping us? As Luc said, the people on the board are very busy, and we pay \$40,000, but we're just asked to do work. When we didn't have a VP Advocacy, we did not have the extra human resources to help the NBSA, so we did not get anything from them or any help either. If we're to stay with the NBSA, I would like to them help us more than us help them."

Adriana Lefort: "Yeah, I just want Council to know that my reason for bringing up this discussion was not to say that we're pulling out of the NBSA, but simply to have a review and understanding of what our relationship should be moving forward."

Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: "Adriana took the words right out of my mouth. I would have reservations about completely pulling out of the NBSA because I think in concept having an organization where groups within the province can work together towards goals is very valuable. We can see at a national level that CASA is very effective at that. I think the concept of the NBSA is a good idea. However, I feel that as a whole, the organization and staff need to undergo a review because right now, we do not see the benefits. I would like to get a sense of what has happened and then discuss with Council and students what we would like to see come out of the NBSA going forward and then see if those needs/wants are realistic for them to provide for them us. To answer Kaitlynn's question, we employ a full-time staff member who is an NBSA Representative and not a student. The role of continuity and making sure these things happen falls on that individual. Our student leaders, from year-to-year, oversee that individual.

I do think everyone has raised valid concerns. Going forward, I would like to have a conversation with the NBSA and have them come to Council to talk about what things look like on their end and then we as a Council can discuss what we would like to see. We can also discuss whether those things can happen and whether we're getting any value out of this relationship. I

don't know if we have all the facts yet, and I realize that that burden falls on the NBSA because they haven't been adequately provided with the points. I also don't know if the VP Advocacy role's previous issues have played a factor with the NBSA. What do you guys think?"

Sean MacKenzie, President: "I just want to make a recommendation. I think a review of the NBSA makes sense. I think setting out a clear guideline for that and having a presentation would be beneficial. Maybe we can have them come to the meeting next week, do a presentation, and then have a review? I'd recommend having an Adhoc Committee if we have a review, given that Advocacy Committee is swamped with EDI work. These are just recommendations, and we can set something up for next week if that's what Council wants."

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "I agree that a presentation would be nice, but it is not enough. We had them present to us last year, and nothing has changed since then. I don't think not having a VP Advocacy is a reason for this misunderstanding. I'm a student who sits on one of the alliances that the NBSA represents, yet I still don't know what the NBSA is doing for us. As Grace said, there's constantly an ask. With previous VP Advocacy's, I've heard 'the NBSA wants this from me.' They aren't helping us. In this scenario, I think a presentation is fine but more needs to be done. What happened? Nothing. Anyways, that's my perspective on this topic."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "This is not a secret. We called them in last year and told them that we're not very satisfied with their service. We also asked them not to raise our fees. What did they do? They raised their prices and did not improve the service. I have no problem withdrawing. There's a lot more we can do with our \$40,000. That money would do a lot of good for clubs and societies and our students. \$40,000 is enough for someone's salary for a whole year. I'm not opposed to the review in principle, but if we're, it needs to be short and have clear objectives because in the meantime, we're sending off this money, and it's not doing any good for our students."

Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor: “Do we receive a quarterly or annual report from them outlining their budget and what they’ve accomplished in that time?”

Sean MacKenzie: “So every year the board has their NGM, which is mostly the board discussing board-based matters. We’ve discussed the budget, reviewed it and approved next year’s budget. We, as the board, are supposed to receive quarterly financial updates. The budget is supposed to be on the website but is not. The website also needs updating. We do receive weekly updates from the Executive Chair and Vice-chair as to what they’ve accomplished. I believe most of that information should be in the minutes. However, I don’t believe a report has ever been made directed to SU Councils. The simple answer to your question is no. We don’t receive a formal report.”

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women’s Councillor: “Are there any other organizations that do this or is this the only one in New Brunswick? If our money isn’t properly spent in one place, maybe it can be directed to another place. I also agree with what Lidia said in the chat about having reasonable expectations.”

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor: “I’m also thinking ‘what’s the point of staying even if we do lower our fees’ since we’re essentially getting nothing? To be honest, I do not know what the NBSA does.”

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: “Yeah, we’ve been talking about this for thirty minutes, and I’m still not sure what they do. I want to draw attention to comments in the chat that I’ve missed. It seems like people agree on a presentation, so if a member of the executive could bring that forward at a near-term meeting. Another point that was raised is the idea of striking an Adhoc Committee to bring the report on it. I think we could strike that committee tonight and fill the membership at our next meeting after the NBSA presentation.”

Téa Fazio: “I wanted to put the recommendation forward to go through with the Adhoc Committee. Most of the feedback that I’m hearing from Council members is that we have concerns and don’t have all the facts we need to make an informed decision. I do think the best

decision going forward would be to strike an Adhoc Committee to review the NBSA. I can also have a conversation with Sean about who would be the best person to do this. One of us will reach out to the ED and set up a presentation for Council. I'm fine to make the motion to strike this to the Adhoc Committee, but where Adriana did bring up the issue, and this has been her discussion, I'd like to allow Adriana to make the motion."

**Resolution 092-20**

*That Council strikes an Adhoc Committee to review UNBSU's membership in the NBSA and aims to get a report back by March 14, 2021.*

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Abhiiraj Nikram, Engineering Representative

**The motion is carried.**

Christopher Arisz, Law Councillor: I would like to emphasize that the NBSA should work to make their case as to why we should stay with them instead of the Council doing much research.

Adriana Lefort: "I agree. I've looked into it before and couldn't find much."

Aodhan Murphy: "Did Council want to fill the committee tonight or wait until the NBSA comes to speak? If we don't do it tonight, we're still giving them about three weeks, which is pretty safe."

Sean MacKenzie: "I would say to do it this week just to be on the safe side. It's better off to give them more time."

Téa Fazio: "In terms of what this would look like for Councillors, it would be getting in contact with the NBSA and then the presentation to Council. Councillors would just need to discuss with the NBSA and get the information from them to review. As a group, they would then discuss what they think, whether or not the NBSA is effective, and what they want to see moving forward. That is what I envision the Committee would look like. I agree with Sean that it's best to strike the Committee this week so that action can start happening. I also would be happy to chair

the Committee, but I am fine with anyone doing that. I don't know if there was already an idea of who would take on this responsibility. I am fairly busy with the EDI plan, but I understand that the NBSA does fall under the scope of my role, so I'm just putting forward that I would be happy either way, chairing the Committee or not."

Adriana Lefort: "My thoughts are that Sean would chair the Committee just because he's been active with the NBSA this entire year. I also would like to be on the Committee."

Sean MacKenzie: "I would say having Téa and Adriana on the Committee makes sense. I'd say having four Councillors also on the Committee would be ideal. Perhaps adding a general member as well, who would have to be appointed at a later date. However, we can get the base work started."

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I can find a general member."

Aodhan Murphy: "Okay, so we're taking nominations for the four Councillor to be on the Adhoc Committee. Do we have any interest?"

*Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Nihla Houssain, Brennan Marks, and Lidia Shibre all volunteer to be on the Adhoc Committee.*

### **Resolution 093-20**

*That Council forms membership of the NBSA review committee with Sean MacKenzie as Chair, Adriana Lefort, Téa Fazio, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Nihla Houssain, Brennan Marks, and Lidia Shibre.*

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life

**The motion is carried.**

### **5.4 Ratification of LEAP Conference**

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "This is regarding the Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Action Plan Conference. I've had a few back-and-forth discussions with the



Chair. After reviewing their constitution, I don't see any problems. If there's no discussion or questions, I'll motion to ratify the LEAP Conference as a UNBSU Conference.

**Resolution 094-20**

*That Council ratifies the LEAP Conference.*

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Abhiiraj Nikram, Engineering Representative

**The motion is carried.**

**5.5 Councillor of the Month**

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "Not many people have voted, so I'm going to share the link in the chat, and I'd love it if you could all take one minute to nominate a Councillor. I just want to say that I'm thrilled I'm not the one who has to pick this award because I've seen incredible work done over the last month, and I've seen so many of you step up to help with difficult things. No matter who wins this award, there has been incredible work done by each of you."

*Councillors fill out the nomination form.*

Grace Pelkey: "The Councillor of the Month for January is Madeleine Smith! Congratulations!"

Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor: "Thanks, guys!"

Grace Pelkey: "The winner of each month will receive a gift card of your choice. I will email you, and we can figure that out. We will also feature you on our Instagram story as long as you're comfortable with that. Great work!"

**6. Reports to Council**

**6.1 Vice President - Communications**

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications, tells Council that she met with the Director of Campus Events to go over the Winter Carnival schedule.
- She met with the Accessibility Councillor to discuss her councillor project.

- Deanna notes that she attended an executive meeting where they discussed the EDI plan with Téa.
- She's been working on promotions for Madeleine's councillor project.
- She met with the new CRO to discuss the upcoming election and candidates pages. This should be good to go up by Tuesday at noon.
- She met with Téa to go over the content for Sex Week.
- She set up a filming studio.
- She has a committee meeting coming up.
- She's been answering questions about the election and directing them to the CRO.

## **6.2 Vice President – Student Life**

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life, states that the Food Bags are now out; after meeting with the Food Coordinator, these were able to be set up.
- A few things for SLIC popped up, so he was not able to have the interviews. He will be rescheduling these.
- He met with the Marketing Manager of the REDS. They discussed potential collaboration for the Winter Carnival.
- He met with a BBA graduate about his KAYR Project.
- He had a few SafeRide driver interviews.
- He attended the EDI plan meeting.
- Vishnu also met with Brennan regarding ACE.

Katelynn-Pickel MacDonald, Women's Councillor: "What does ACE mean?"

Vishnu Vardhan: "ACE stands for Alcohol and Cannabis education. Furthermore, whenever I refer to ACE, I will spell out the full acronym. It's essentially the new name for DrinkSmart."

## **6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations**

- Adriana Lefort, VP of Finance & Operations, updates that she had three confidential situations that arose.
- She met with Fareeha to discuss long-term funding for her project.
- She sat in on the Orientation Hiring Committee to select an O-Chair and Vice-Chair.
- She met with Téa to go over funding ideas for her projects.
- She met with candidates who are running in the upcoming election.
- She met with the organizers of the International Student Banquet to make a precedent for multicultural funding.
- She sat in on the selections committee for the research graduate dean of the faculty of management.
- She made a projected budget for BOG for the 2021-22 years.
- She's been working on updates for the website for clubs and societies. Adriana notes that if you have suggestions for this, get in contact with her.

#### **6.4 Vice President – Internal**

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal, states that she met with a couple of Council members.
- She's been working with the CRO and DCRO.
- She had a Breaking Stereotypes meeting.
- She had an Internal Affairs Committee meeting.
- She attended a special SSNP meeting.
- She's been dealing with student concerns.
- Finally, Grace assigned the new councillors to their committees.

#### **6.5 Vice-President – Advocacy**

- Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy, tells Council that she put an update report in the drive and the minutes and agenda.
- She's made progress on the EDI plan.

- She had a consultation with Sean and Angela (from the HR office) to get feedback on the EDI plan process.
- Next, she plans to consult with different council groups to talk about EDI issues and opportunities.
- Téa notes that Sex Week is good to go for next week. The schedule has just been released. Every day will be based on a different love language. Activities will be a mix of live events, Q&As, videos, etc. Partners include Cassidy Wilson, the 203, the Women's Centre, and NBCCD.
- She's been researching Black History Month. An initial post went out last week, and a new one will go out next week, which will be focused on historic black individuals that were UNB students. She's also checked out the Black Lives Matter Fredericton resource.
- She attended OER training.
- In terms of Sexual Violence Prevention, Téa is working with Vishnu to develop a campaign. They plan to work with CSASA and student representatives. She also attended the tri-campus sexual violence prevention team meeting. CSASA will be hosting sexual violence prevention training for faculty and staff.
- She met with Adriana, Nihla, Mehak, and Khaleem to talk about doing an International Week. This would be two weeks after March Break. The week would finish off with a gala.
- She hopes to meet with Vishnu and Katelynn to discuss how they can incorporate international diversity into Winter Carnival.
- Lastly, she's been meeting with students about their concerns with online education and accessibility and confidential EDI concerns.

## **6.6 President**

- Sean Mackenzie, the President, says that he hosted the MLA Monday.
- He attended the CASA and NBSA board meetings.

- He met with the City of Fredericton to discuss the bus pass. He plans to have further discussions with the Council about this subject.
- He attended the board advancement committee and the Fredericton budget advisory subcommittee meetings.
- He also attended the special SSNP meeting.
- He was working with Adriana on some of the personal issues.
- He met with candidates who are interested in the Presidential position.
- He met with Karen to compare notes on the Human Rights and Human Resource policy.

### **6.7 Status of Executive Review Recommendations**

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “Last week we discussed transparency in Council. The executives all met on Friday to discuss it. We made a plan for going forward, which I’ll read allowed: ‘At the start of each year, we will create a video of who we are and what we do. We will also create monthly videos that cover what is happening in the SU. Deanna will have both of these items in her transition report so that these tasks don’t get lost in transition. We will make our first one at the end of February. We were also thinking about having a monthly meeting with the Council to discuss our strategic plan as it should be our guiding document in how we make decisions and the plans we have. We also want to add a checklist to the Councillor handbook for ways to keep the executives accountable.’ That’s all we have, so if you have any concerns or comments, feel free to let us know.”

Sean MacKenzie, President: “As I stated in my update, I met with Karen to discuss our Human Rights/Human Resources Policy. There’s a lot of problems with them. We also have an employee handbook based on the NB government’s regulations for workplace health and safety. We will be utilizing that to help the lawyer develop policies. Karen will be reaching out to the lawyer first-thing tomorrow morning to figure out the costs. I first plan to talk to Adriana about the financial aspects of this. From there, we’ll see what our options are and then notify the Council.”

Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: “I remember one of Brennan’s suggestions was about transparency and that the executive needs to be open when they’ve struggled at something. I think I’ve

failed to do this during the last two Council meetings. I'd like to open up about what I've been struggling with over the last semester. I've struggled to get the SafeRide sponsorship package done. I have the information ready to go, but I just don't know how to design it, and I need help with it. I have an idea to tailor it to look like the strategic plan, but I don't want it to take any more time."

Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: "EDI development is continuing. We also met with the Human Rights Office to talk about doing an extensive EDI review. We also started our virtual office hours, which was fun."

Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: "On that note, our virtual office hour schedule is up, so if you know anyone interested in talking to us, then please share the schedule!"

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Do any of the executives want to touch on recommendation 8, which I believe was the weekly exec update needs to end with clear deliverable items and another recommendation was that exec bring up concerns with council participation ahead of time before frustrations arise."

Grace Pelkey: "We have been creating deliverables at every executive meeting, and Sean takes responsibility for that. We haven't had any frustrations with Council, so that's why we haven't brought any up. Also, I've noticed many Council members have emailed executives to ask questions, but feel free to drop-in to our office hours instead if you like."

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor: "Vish, feel free to send me a message, and I can help you put that into Canva. We wanted to get from the executive review recommendation that if someone is struggling with something, they should act on it. I think we should remember that when we do these."

Fareeha Quayyum, Inclusion Counsellor: "In the reports to council, maybe we could have bullet points reviewing what each of the exec has been talking about just to make it easier to follow along."

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor: "I was just wondering how many people have been going to office hours now that we've been promoting it."

Adriana Lefort: "I've had none; however, people have messaged me looking to meet, so I've told them to come to my office hours."

Deanna Merriam: “That’s kind of been my strategy too. I haven’t had anyone drop-in, but with people looking to meet, that’s the time I suggest. I think people just need to be more aware of it.”

Téa Fazio: “Something interesting that’s happened to me is that people will DM me a lot during my office hours.”

Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor: “How can we attend the virtual office hours?”

Deanna Merriam: “The link is on our social media, in our Instagram bio, and reminders are in our story. Adriana also just put it in the chat.”

Téa Fazio: “Another thing to note is that it’s the same link for every single office hour. So if you want to meet with any of us, you use the same link. Also, in terms of Fareeha’s point, that report I dropped in the Drive should kind-of be what you’re looking for; however, it’s not bullet points. My apologies.”

## **7. Announcements**

Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor: “Every year, the Arts Faculty holds the Arts Matters conference. We collaborate with other art faculties in the province and other faculties. If you have a project you would like to present, then let me know. People have even presented term papers. I will drop the information on the FB page. If you’re interested in grad school, then this is a great event to attend.”

## **8. Question Period**

## **9. Other Business**

Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: “I put a message in the Facebook group about Sex Week. I want to get self-affirmation videos from Councillors. The videos I’ve received so far are amazing so thank you! I still need a couple more, so please check out that message.”

## **10. Adjournment**

### **Resolution 095-20**

*That Council adjourns the meeting.*

Mover: Abhiiraj Nikam, Engineering Councillor

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

**The motion is carried.**

**The meeting is adjourned at 8:10 PM.**

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_