

MINUTES – 17th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2020/21

March 28, 2021; 7:00 PM via Zoom

Regrets: Adriana Lefort



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 112-20

That Council adopts the agenda for March 28, 2021, with the amendment of item 5.3,

Preliminary Budget, being removed.

Mover: Sean MacKenzie, President

Seconder: Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Councillor

The motion is carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Resolution 113-20

That Council approves the minutes for March 21, 2021.

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life

Seconder: Xiuming Shi, RC Councillor

The motion is carried.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Faculty Councillor Updates

Anna Lee Leblanc, Kinesiology Councillor, the Kinesiology Society matters.

Christopher Arisz, Law Councillor, has no update.

Elizabeth Herbert, Education Councillor, various topics, so she hopes more people will attend these.

Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Councillor, says she and Abhiiraj hosted the workshop yesterday. She says that she worked on the poster advertising for the seminar, and Deanna helped with the ts branding. She notes that this took up a lot of her time.

Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor, states that she attended the NBSA Review meetings that have taken place. She just had the Arts Matter event and noted that 11-12 people showed up for each talk.

Matt Douglas, Science Councillor, has no update.

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor, says that she has a Business Society Board meeting coming up.

Xiuming Shi, RC Councillor, updates that she attended a Policy Committee meeting a few weeks ago.

5.2 Bylaw and Policy Amendments

Sean MacKenzie, President: “I apologize for all of the documents that you folks have had to look over. I don’t know whether you folks would prefer me to go over all of the changes that have been made. I’m also open to just answering any questions you folks may have. I also have one question for Councillors on something that the committee could not come to a conclusion on, which I’d be happy to move forward with either way. I’ll ask this at the end of this item’s discussion. If folks have questions at this point, I’m open to answering them now...

...I do not see any questions. Policy Committee raised the point that UNBSU already represents many adult learners. The only difference is the part-time student portion of it. That’s kind of where we got stuck. The only difference between UNBSU and ALPS is the fact that UNBSU focuses on full-time students. The main reason why ALPS has adult learners included in their organization is that frequently adult learners are also part-time students. We’re unsure what to name the councillor position. We had originally named it ALPS Representative because of the organization we were going to represent at this

point. I just want to get any insight from you folks on whether that name is okay to keep or whether we should change it?"

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women's Councillor: "What if we remove the adult learners portion of it and just keep it as part-time students? If you were a high school student who could only afford to be a part-time student for the time being, then the 'adult learner title may deter you away."

Sean MacKenzie: "Yeah, that was a point that we'd discussed and wanted to bring to the council to see what general thoughts were. That's a quick change we can make too."

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I'm wondering if ALPS only represents adult learners who are part-time students or whether there is that differentiation? A lot of adults could be full-time, and we're not representing that if we take out the adult learners title."

Sean MacKenzie: "The only difference between us and ALPS is that we didn't represent part-time students, and they did. We still represent adult learners even if they're full-time students."

Grace Pelkey: "Then I would say it should be a part-time student position. Because an adult could be a part-time or full-time student and they can run for those positions."

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor: "What's the definition of an adult learner?"

Sean MacKenzie: "I know the university defines an adult learner or mature student as someone over the age of 23 or older. It's either 23 or 25. I can't remember exactly. That's where part of the issue comes into play as well."

Lidia Shibre writes in chat, "I think it's starting school at 21."

Sean MacKenzie: "It could be that as well. Thanks, Lidia. I think that the agreement I'm hearing is that we should title the councillor position as, Part-time Councillor instead of an ALPS Councillor.

Aodhan, you can correct me if I'm wrong, but I would assume we could add that in there as an amendment and then do the first reading of that tonight?"

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Yeah, unless people expect to oppose any, in particular, we could just say that council approve amendments to the following bylaws on the first reading in wholesale

with the amendment to Bylaw 1, Section 18, Section G to change it to Part-time Student Representative. We can change it all in one big motion unless anyone wants to do otherwise.”

Chloe Jardine, Board of Governors: “I have a question that’s unrelated to this, and I apologize that it’s unrelated, but have we agreed whether these bylaws would be going to a lawyer to get looked at?”

Sean MacKenzie: “Yes, they will still go to a lawyer. Normally they go to our lawyer, and that’s the plan right now. Where this is a business relationship, I would prefer to have a separate discussion on this. I also do hope to have them looked at by a second organization as that never hurts to do so.”

Chloe Jardine: “Yeah, it doesn’t matter to me who the lawyer is. I just want to make sure that someone with a legal opinion gets to look at these at some point.”

Sean MacKenzie: “I completely agree. Are there any other questions regarding the changes in the bylaws or policies? If there isn’t, I’d be happy to make that motion, Aodhan.”

Resolution 114-20

That Council approves amendments for the following bylaws and policies on first reading:

the UNBSU Committee Policy;

the Clubs and Societies Policy;

Council Procedure Policy;

Data Policy;

Policy defining governing documents;

External Political Representation Policy;

Financial Policy;

SafeRide Policy;

By-Law 1, with the amendment that s 18(g) is to refer to “Part-time Student Representative.”;

By-Law 2, and,

By-Law 3

Mover: Sean MacKenzie, President

Seconder: Jharana Luitel, Computer Science Councillor

The motion is carried.

5.3 NBSA Review Committee Report

Sean MacKenzie, President: “The Adhoc Committee for the NBSA Review Committee has brought forward a report with recommendations from you folks. Given the nature of some of the recommendations, the committee and I thought that we perhaps move the discussion to in-camera so that folks feel more open to discuss the content of what’s in some of the recommendations. I would be happy to provide a summary for the minutes after we move out of the in-camera. Are there any concerns with this?”

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: “Sean, would you like to move that we go in-camera with the inclusion of non-voting members?”

Resolution 115-20

That Council moves to an in-camera discussion with the inclusion of non-voting council members.

Mover: Sean MacKenzie, President

Seconder: Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor

The motion is carried.

Sean MacKenzie: “The public recommendations of the NBSA Review Committee are the following:

The Committee recommends that the Executive Director of the NBSA create and present a plan to the UNBSU Council. This plan should outline clear goals for the organization for the upcoming year, a detailed list and timeline of improvement that the organization plans to undertake and an explanation of how they will be accomplished, and a plan for professional development and a genuine understanding of the performance issues raised by the committee. They should also provide monthly updates to the VP

Advocacy and the President to ensure that the plan is followed. This report will end up being read or delivered to the council at the council meeting that will take place on April 11, 2021.

Suppose the Executive Director fails to present a satisfactory plan for this date and submit the project by noon (12:00 pm AST) on April 9, 2021. In that case, the committee will recommend that UNBSU immediately sever ties with the NBSA on the organization's financial concerns. Suppose the Executive Director does present a satisfactory plan of how they will personally improve their role and how the NBSA will improve as a whole. In that case, the committee will recommend that another review be conducted starting late February of next year to assess whether the plan has been followed. This committee will need to set their recommendations based on their plan and the outcome of said plan.”

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: “I’ve worked on many different things this week, starting with captioning our social media. We had our monthly check-in for executives, which the entire executive team attended. I also put out the RED Awards pages for nominations and prepped the voting pages. This will be going out this upcoming week so stay tuned for that on our social media! I look forward to everyone voting and seeing who wins the awards.
- I met with several students throughout the week to discuss their applications for VP Communications. It was enjoyable to discuss the role with students.
- We put out the Garden Coordinator applications.
- I made the Breaking Stereotypes Typeform and graphic. I’d like to give a massive shoutout to Grace Pelkey, our VP Internal. She’s truly gone above and beyond for the Breaking Stereotypes campaign. In the past two weeks, there hasn’t been one day where she hasn’t been thrilled about it. She’s even gone as far as collecting equipment for it. She’s on the ball through and through. I’d like to say thank you to Grace for all of this.

- We will be filming this week. We set up a little filming area in the Thinktank in our hallway. Filming will continue this week.
- Weekly wellness tips went out on social media.
- I formatted and put out the statement for speaking out against anti-Asian violence on our website and social media.
- I attended a virtual orientation transition retreat which was fun. It was an orientation into next year.
- I spent time reviewing the VP Communications applicants.”

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: “I hope everyone is doing well. First off, the Tastebreaker bundles went over very nicely. Almost all of them have been picked up. There was a bit of confusion when we had to give away one of the bags we should have taken into account. We will sort that out next time. Swarna and I have been discussing, and we plan to do another run of these bundles. We’re planning on releasing the Typeform and getting orders in before April 9, 2021. We think that this is a super cool initiative, and so we’re very excited about it.
- The Typeform for the fresh food bags has also gone up, so if you want to get your \$15 produce, you can order that now.
- Garden Coordinator hiring has gone up, so we’ve been working on setting up to have a good transition into their role.
- Katelynn and I have been working with Design Works about running the garden and getting it ready for the season. We hope to have this ready for a gardening summer camp for kids.
- No new updates on ACE. We’re looking to launch the website fairly soon.
- I’ve been working on logistics with Adriana, Grace, Deanna on the Black Tie Cellar Night. Get ready for this event!

- I also had a meeting with Téa about the campaign and the content to go over.”

6.2 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: “I’ll read Adriana’s update as she isn’t here tonight. Adriana wanted to say that she’s been having some bad luck health-wise, she’s doing fine, but it has impacted her work a bit.
- SPERC has made quite a few requests for in-person events, so she spent time going through many of their operational plans.
- She’s been helping Grace with the SURAS. This has been going well, and there’s a lovely banquet room being put together for the event.
- She participated in the final selection of the Black Shirt team for next year.
- She attended two NBSA Review Committee meetings and reviewed the necessary documents.
- She met with Bhavya, Cordel, and Sean to put together the preliminary budget for next year that was supposed to be presented tonight.
- The hiring for Garden Coordinator is out, and she’s working with Vishnu to put together the job description.
- VP Communications hiring is closed. Adriana has been sorting through the applicants for the Selection Committee.”

6.3 Vice President – Internal

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “It’s been a busy week. The first thing I’ve been working on is the study packs. I secured a spot at the Harriet Irving Library and the Forestry and Science Library. I purchased everything that needs to go into the packages and put them together.
- The Sexual Assault Policy Committee met this week. Sean, Téa and I met with the committee as their first student consult. I spent a lot of time going over the policy and procedures. They also sent us questions. If anyone wants a more in-depth explanation of

how that went or the recommendations made, you can either send me an email, and we can have a 1v1 discussion or I can put it on the agenda for next week for council.

- I've been working a lot on Breaking Stereotypes, and it's going well. I met with the committee and finalized the questions. I sent these questions off to the participants.
- The SURAS guest list has been finalized. I've been working on other aspects of the event. Thank you to Adriana, who has been working on getting the room booked, among other logistics.
- I attended SSNP this week. I probably spent about four hours between that meeting and reading the cases.
- I met once more with the group creating the textbook dropbox.
- I attended a Retail Review Committee meeting, Student Services Leadership Team meeting, and I met with a couple of councillors as well."

6.4 Vice-President – Advocacy

- Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: "Thanks so much, Aodhan, for dropping my report in the drive. I've been sick again this week, which is why my report was not included with the other executives, but it has been included in the meeting package. I did manage to get a few things done this past week.
- Last weekend, I met with some Asian students to discuss the Student Union's role in supporting upcoming initiatives. After consulting these students, I created a draft of our public statement and resources about anti-Asian violence that Deanna helped me put out this past Wednesday.
- Grace, Sean and I met with the Sexual Assault Policy Review Committee. Grace covered most of this, but I wanted to note that they'll be launching a website soon. This will allow students to provide direct feedback to the committee for the policy review. I know students have been raising concerns about not being able to communicate directly to this committee.

- I met with Vishnu to finalize the BAE plan.
- I continued drafting the EDI plan. I met with Melissa, our Wellness Coordinator, and we had our wellness team meeting to brainstorm and finalize our event ideas for the De-stress Fest, which I believe will be on the first week of exams.
- Lastly, Sean and I are looking into a Go TV campaign for the municipal election. We contacted the NBSA, and they'll be putting out some promotional graphics. I also got Elections NB to look at the possibility of hosting a mayoral candidates debate and polling stations at UNB.
- I also helped out with the NBSA Review Committee meeting and Breaking Stereotypes Committee meeting.”

6.5 President

- Sean Mackenzie, President: “I know you folks probably have heard me talk enough today, so I'll try to rush through this one.
- I also attended the Student Services Leadership Team meeting.
- I helped Deanna with the RED Awards portion of the website.
- I met with Cordel, Bhavya, and Adriana to work on the preliminary budget.
- I attended the Student Standings and Promotions Committee meeting.
- I participated in the CASA Graduate Advisory Group meeting.
- I attended a Bi-campus Health Steering Committee for a bit but had to leave that meeting early.
- I attended the Retail Service Review Committee.
- I developed the policy and bylaw report summary for our student council.
- I met with NBSA Review Committee twice. A big shoutout to their fantastic work and their involvement in this process. I met with few committee members to go over the report and present it to you folks.

- I met with the RED Awards Committee. We're planning some marketing. I'm finalizing a few things to help Deanna out. I know there's a lot of content being prepped right now. I began preparing my transition report for Cordel, our incoming President.
- I attended an NBSA board meeting. One thing I didn't include in my report because it happened after I'd submitted it to Grace was that I had an impromptu meeting with the Executive Director of CASA to discuss my role as the Treasurer."

6.6 Status of Executive Review Recommendations

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Before letting you off the hook for speaking, Sean, I know Chloe had brought up the bylaw review earlier in the meeting. Do you mind given us more details, Sean?"

Sean MacKenzie, President: "Once the bylaws are off for their second reading, I'll be sending them off to our lawyer to review. I figure if we're going to have him review them anyway, then they may as well be the most up-to-date. After our April 11th meeting, I'll be sending those off."

Aodhan Murphy: "Téa, do you have any updates on our EDI plan?"

Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: "The draft is almost done. I'm hoping to get it to everybody at the next council meeting to review it as a council. I've sent out a few Typeforms, and I have a few more to send out to various student groups to get general student feedback on items they'd like to see. I'm hoping to get broader feedback, but the feedback I have gotten to date from these student groups is already included in the draft document."

Aodhan Murphy: "Does anyone from the council have any questions?"

7. Announcements

Sean MacKenzie, President: "I'd like to give a shoutout to Abhiiraj and Jharana. I attended their Computer Science and Engineering workshop. I went in with the mindset that as a fourth-year student, there would not be a lot for me to learn, but I found it extremely beneficial. Jharana represented the Computer Science faculty very well. I found it to be a very amazing

event. There was a great turnout, and it had some amazing speakers. A shoutout to Abhiiraj and Jharana for that awesome event.”

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “A reminder that we will no longer have a council meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Instead, we will have one on Sunday, April 11, 2021.”

Téa Fazio, VP Advocacy: “I also would like to give a major shout out Jharana, Xiuming, and Sohan. These students have helped me out in writing the anti-Asian violence statement that went out from the UNBSU. They did an amazing job, and I *really* appreciate their feedback. Thank you, folks.”

8. Question Period

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women’s Councillor: “Do we know if the library will be extending their hours come exam season? If not, is there somewhere we can advocate for that, especially on Fridays and Saturdays because it closes at 5:00 pm on those days, which is a little silly. ”

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: “I can reach out to the Dean and get an answer about that and if it’s not happening that I will try to make it happen.”

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald: “Thank you, Grace.”

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Resolution 116-20

That Council adjourns the meeting.

Mover: Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor

Secunder: Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life

The motion is carried.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Secretary: _____

President: _____