

MINUTES – 3rd UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2020/21

October 4th, 2020; 7:02 PM via Zoom

Absent: Chloe Jardine, Emmanuel Chris Louis, Jillian Carson, Vienna Munck



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 011-20

That Council adopts the agenda for October 4th, 2020.

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor

The motion is carried *unanimously*.

3. Chair's Remarks

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "As I noted in my email, the agenda contains some sensitive information, so just be wary of that. Council meetings are open to the public. Discussions have a public value to them, but please be responsible with that information until discussed. At this point, if you have any conflict of interest, I would like you to declare that. Keep in mind if, for whatever reason, I have to give someone a speakers list, that's available as well."

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Resolution 012-20

That Council approves the minutes for the meeting of September 27th, 2020.

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

The motion is carried.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Faculty Councillor Updates

Christopher Arisz, Faculty of Law Councillor: "My update for this week has two points. Both of them having to do with trying to increase connection to the constituency. The first being that I reached out to the Chair of the Law Student Society here in the Faculty of Law. I said, 'I'd like to establish a report if there's something that comes up which would call for communications between the two bodies - something big like the renaming of the Law building.' The second point is that I reached out to a staff member of the Law Faculty and got their permission to send out an email to all of the students to say 'Hey, the Student Union exists and also represents you as undergraduate students aside from the LSS.'"

Jharana Luitel, Faculty of Computer Science Councillor: "I attended the year-end banquet and computer science association meeting, which was very fruitful."

Lidia Shibre, Faculty of Arts Councillor, is absent.

Madeleine Smith, Faculty of Nursing Councillor: "The main thing I've been working on is building a strategy around what some of the broad goals I have. I've also met with the Nursing Society President in Fredericton and Moncton to make sure that we're working in parallel and can support each other."

Matt Douglas, Faculty of Science Councillor: "I had my meeting with Grace this week, and we discussed a lot of key things related to the Science Faculty. I am also waiting to hear back from the Science Students Services Coordinator. I had planned to meet her to discuss ways in

which we can collaborate to engage students. I will be reaching out to her again this week and continue brainstorming for my councillor project."

Molly Pittman, Faculty of Management Councillor: "My councillor project is now in place, so there are discounts at the Topsy Muse, the Donut Bar, Chess Piece, and Milltown. The discounts will be in place for the semester. I'm going to reach out to them again in January for next semester and also to check-in. Other than that, I was the MC for the Welcome and Appreciation Night for the BBA Students. This event was enjoyable!"

Xiuming Shi, Faculty of Renaissance College (RC) Councillor: "RCS has been event planning. We have our first event planned for this week. I've been meeting with the RC Peer Mentors and students to discuss putting together workshops, etc. Right now, I'm very focused on integrating the first-year students into RC."

5.2 Code of Conduct Committee Report and Resignation of VP Advocacy

Resolution 013-20

That our Chief Returning Officer, Seth Corner, be granted speaking rights on item 5.2 of the agenda titled Code of Conduct Committee Report and Resignation of VP Advocacy.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

The motion is carried.

Seth Corner, Chief Returning Officer (CRO): "You should have received a report on a point made September 15th, 2020. The Code of Conduct Committee was established on September 17th, after the Council ratified my position. I want to clarify that with this report, it makes no conclusions. These are alleged accusations as the investigation did not continue and was not completed due to the respondent's resignation. The complainant provided evidence, but

because the respondent resigned, we had no grounds at the time to continue investigating. It is important to note that the respondent in their letter of resignation indicated that they would provide a response and have not done so yet. I will do an overview of the report if you haven't had the chance to go through it. On September 23rd, 2020, I provided our Committee with the complaint, and we established a time for the first meeting that was to be September 28th at 8:00 AM. Both complainant and respondent signed non-disclosure agreements to protect everyone involved. At 6:59 AM, September 20th, 2020, we received a letter of resignation from VP Advocacy. In terms of the complaint, there was much content within it. Sean, was there anything you'd like to add?"

Sean Mackenzie, President: "The only part I would add would be that the complainant had originally sent me the complaint... because my role was to fill the role of CRO until the official CRO ratification. My role is also to notify members shortly after that there has been a complaint, but at that time, the only member was myself and our General Manager. I did notify the General Manager of the complaint. Upon ratification of our CRO, I turned the complaint to him. He was quick with notifying members of the Committee. We can take any questions people may have."

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women's Councillor: "Would we be able to get the names of who was on the Committee?"

Seth Corner, CRO: "We can certainly provide that. On the Committee was myself, Sean, the General Manager, Karen Miner, Brennan Marks, and Christopher Arisz. You can always send me an email at cro@unbsu.ca if you have any other questions."

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Pending no further questions, I would make the recommendation that we make that amendment to add the list of the Committee members to the report. I also recommend that we make the amendments of providing more information on the allegations, why we couldn't continue forward with the investigation, and that we still

have not received to the point of completion of this report, any other response from the respondent."

Resolution 014--20

That Council files the code of conduct committee report as information attached as Schedule A.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

The motion is carried.

Resolution 015--20

That we amend to add the Committee members to appear in the report; additionally, we make another amendment to update the report's language. This update would define what an allegation is in this context, better reflect why the investigation did not continue, and why the investigation is not considered complete due to a lack of response from the respondent.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women's Councillor

The motion is carried.

5.3 Appointment of Interim VP Advocacy

Sean Mackenzie, President: "The Executive Council have all agreed that we need to appoint someone as an Interim VP Advocacy. We do have a recommendation for Council; however, the Council can also nominate someone else. Our recommendation, Melissa Ghanem, has submitted a letter of intent and has submitted a resume as well. I want to stress that this is an interim position, so if Melissa feels that she wants to continue this role, she will be required

to run in the by-election. Melissa Ghanem is present with us today. If there are any questions, I would be happy to answer them on behalf of the Executive."

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women's Councillor: "Could you go over the process that you went through when making this decision and also how you informed her of your recommendation?"

Sean Mackenzie: "How we decided was we met as an Executive Council to figure out who our best options were. While we had options, Melissa was already a Wellness Coordinator and worked with the former VP Advocacy very closely. We felt she was our best option as she was aware of what was going on within our organization. Our thought was, 'She would require the least amount of orientation.' We had then notified Melissa and the former VP of Advocacy of our recommendation. We will be releasing information to the student body tomorrow as we feel we should be transparent about this decision. Also, I recommend we proceed with the vote using secret ballots so that there is no pressure to vote a particular way."

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "How are we supposed to do a secret ballot when our meeting is via Zoom?"

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Send me your vote through email at chair@unbsu.ca."

Resolution 016-20

That Council appoints Melissa Ghanem to the position of VP Advocacy as an interim basis until UNBSU can hold a by-election.

Mover: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

Seconder: Sean Mackenzie, President

The motion is carried.

5.4 Councillor Membership

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I have two things to discuss. The first is that Jillian Carson, our current Residents Councillor, has notified me that she will be a part-time student this semester, which means she's no longer an ordinary member of the Union. I want to make a motion for dismissal of Jillian Carson as Councillor based on the grounds of disqualification of being a voting member of the Union, according to Bylaw 1, Section 20, Sub-Section D."

Resolution 017-20

That Jillian Carson be dismissed as Residents Councillor based on the grounds of disqualification of being a voting member of the Union according to Bylaw 1, Section 20, Sub-Section D.

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Counsellor: "Is this a role that we're going to be filling?"

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "It will be open during the by-election. I'm not sure if anyone will run for it, but it will be open."

Brennan Marks: "Do you have to be living in residence to run for it?"

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I'm not sure what it states in our bylaws, but from my knowledge, I believe it has to be someone living in residence."

The motion is carried.

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "Vienna Munck, our current LGBTQ Councillor, has notified me that she is no longer a student at UNB this semester. This also means she no longer qualifies to be an ordinary member of the Union, which disqualifies her from being a Councillor."

Resolution 017-20

That Vienna Munck, as the LGTBQ Councillor, be dismissed on the grounds of disqualification from being a voting Councillor of the Union according to Bylaw 1, Section 20, Sub-Section D.

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life

The motion is carried.

5.5 Student Sustainability Fund

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "I want to have a conversation about the Student Sustainability Fund. I've had many discussions with the UNB Sustainability Office about how we will use the Fund this year. We've reached a consensus on our ideas and thoughts and want to share them with the Council. If you don't know what the Student Sustainability Fund is then, I'll explain now. The SU charges a \$60 fee to students in which \$1 goes towards the Fund. It funds projects that will benefit the UNB community, specifically sustainability projects. UNBSU created the Sustainability Fund for the first time last year. Students liked the initiative, so we hope to use it more this year, but the campus is limited with activities/events due to COVID-19. In many of my meetings with the Sustainability Office, we've tried to develop ideas, projects, etc. The reality is that we are not in the position to create a new initiative for this Fund. However, we did discuss using the Fund to enable students to go to online conferences that focus on sustainability. If there are any questions, discussions, concerns, please feel free to let me know!"

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "What is the policy regarding how we distribute the money? Would the applications for students attending conferences need to go through the standard committee process?"

Adriana Lefort: "I don't believe there is a specific way we need to allocate the money. I believe it's at the Committee's discretion. The conversation between myself and the Sustainability Office was that these applications would still go through the Committee, so yes, it would go through the standard process of being approved. If you ever have ideas or questions, feel free to send me an email."

5.6 Appointment of Associate Appeals

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Item 5.6 of the agenda, Appointment of Associate Appeals follows a rigid structure. We now have two Associate Appeals Officers who are members of the Faculty of Law. I based my choices on the interest received from Malcolm Steven and Matt Oliver. Both were very qualified and should have no difficulty serving these positions. They were impartial to the processes of UNBSU. Are there any questions on those two as selections or the board as a whole?"

Resolution 018-20

That Council approves the Associate Appeals Officers, Malcolm Steven and Matt Oliver.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Sean Mackenzie, President: "UNBSU must swear them in due to an Oath that we have. We can do this next meeting as they are not currently present."

The motion is carried.

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: "Clubs Week just finished. Over ten clubs and societies posted on our social media pages to raise awareness regarding opportunities.
- I posted committee applications for Grace, and we had new applicants, which was very exciting. I'll let Grace speak more on this.
- I posted Molly's councillor project on our socials, which she has discussed and says it's been going very well. Great job, Molly!
- I have taken over the councillor project from our former VP Advocacy. I have been reviewing scripts, scheduling future filming, etc.
- I have also taken over making the posters for Pride History month, which we will be releasing throughout October.
- Adriana and I met with the UNB Sustainability Office and discussed what's next, steps, projects, and talked about Sustainability Week.
- Finally, I met with Melissa to look into scheduling and promoting Sustainability Week."

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life: "SafeRide is ready to roll. The FB page has promoted that service begins tomorrow (October 5th, 2020).
- We applied vinyl to the inside of the vans—yesterday and the day before.
- If you use SafeRide, wear a mask and follow protocols.
- We trained drivers this morning. The hiring period is closed; however, you can always apply because SafeRide is technically always hiring. Email your application to saferide@unbsu.ca.
- I will send the info regarding protocols to Deanna so she can make an infographic outlining all of the steps.

- The Food Coordinator is helping with Sustainability Week. I've offered her help, but she seems to have everything under control.
- Brennan and I had a check-in, and we went over the content we would like to see for the rebranding of DrinkSmart. We met with the Student Health Centre and counselling to discuss what the content is. We will finalize the design aspects of DrinkSmart (logo, etc.) in the next two weeks.
- I had a check-in with the Food Coordinator. We decided we can't do a lot in October because of Sustainability Week. Therefore, we've decided to push filming until the long weekend (October 9th - 12th).
- Finally, I had a check-in with Dawson, who is the Senior Coordinator, and he will be doing a call for volunteers and a call for a Junior Coordinator."

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Adriana Lefort, VP Finance and Operations: "I've met with STU and re-negotiated their contract for the semester. I did this because the establishment of SafeRide took longer than usual.
- I've been helping Melissa out with Sustainability Week.
- Deanna and I met with two Student Experience Team members regarding them breaking the Student Leader Code of Conduct. After talking with them, we decided to let one of them go.
- I attended an extensive Fredericton Budget Advisory Committee meeting.
- Executive Council attended a Student Services Team meeting. Grace will elaborate on this.
- I had an informal meeting with a few of the Clubs and Societies Committee members. We went over funding applications as well as discussing ratification.

- I've been receiving phone calls and emails from event inquiries. People aren't sure whether off-campus and online events also need to go through the Committee process. That's all from me."

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, Women's Councillor: "Are you allowed to tell us the names of the two members we let go of, and for what reason?"

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance and Operations: "After that meeting, we only let go of one member, not both. I don't think for confidentiality reasons; it is right for me to say who they are and why we let them go."

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald: "That's fair. I would recommend that we look further into what students do outside of work before hiring them in the future. Specifically, if this event happened to involve alcohol."

Adriana Lefort: "During the hiring process, we considered those aspects. Alcohol was a conversation topic during the interview. We believed post-interview that they would be the right person to hire."

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I've taken on the pride events for Pride History Month and created a schedule for those events."
- I did seven more check-in meetings with Councillors and approved a few more councillor projects during these.
- I attended an extensive Student Promotions Committee meeting.
- I also attended the Teaching Excellence Policy Committee meeting.
- The Executive Council met with Student Services and discussed study space on campus. I provided feedback regarding what study spaces students want, specifically in the SUB.
- I helped Deanna with the promotion of Orange Shirt Day.

- I reached out to the Associate UNB Secretary about getting students' thoughts on the Accessibility Advisory Committee; however, I have not heard back.
- I have been sorting through applications.
- Finally, Kathy Wilson, VP of the Academic Learning Environment and Chair of the Chosen Name and Gender Identity Policy Working Group reached out. She is looking for a student to voice the LGBTQ+ community. If anyone is interested or would know of anyone interested, please reach out!"

6.5 Vice President – Advocacy

- Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy: "I met with Adriana and Deanna regarding Sustainability Week. I have finalized the schedule for Sustainability Week and have made sure that I coordinated each session effectively. I also confirmed the panellists for all of the sessions.
- I met with CHIMO helpline to look at potential collaborations to benefit students. I decided to look into creating a toolkit. The only problem I'm facing is that I'm not sure whether I should discuss this project with the Executive before commencing.
- Lastly, I will soon be contacting the Wellness Team."

6.6 President

- Sean Mackenzie, President; "I sat on the Valedictorian Selection Committee for the Fall and Spring graduation. The Committee selected the Valedictorian and should announce their name soon.
- I met with NBSA as the primary delegate who will now be Melissa. We reviewed a few policies and discussed ones that need to be updated. Next meeting, we will go ahead and update six of these policies.
- I also attended a CASA board meeting, where we updated finances.
- I attended the Board of Governors Finance and Property Committee meeting.

- I met with the City to discuss the international student bus pass. I need proper consultation with international students before commencing.
- I had a meeting with Student Services, which went well.
- I attended a meeting for Pride History Month, which included members from STU and NBCC—working on events for pride history month.
- The Advancement Committee and Policy Committee will meet this week.
- Finally, I met with Kathy Wilson to discuss the Student Accessibility Centre."

Aodhan Murphy closes reports to the Council.

7. Announcements

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "Sean, did you have anything else to say about the meeting with the Board of Governors?"

Sean Mackenzie, President: "No, unfortunately, I don't. As soon as they send us the minutes, I can better inform you. Hopefully, more will be made public after the October 15th meeting. Also, I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving next weekend!"

Aodhan Murphy closes announcements.

8. Question Period

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Resolution 019-20

That Council adjourns the meeting.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Secunder: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

The motion is carried.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:07 PM

Secretary: _____

President: _____