

## **AGENDA – 2nd UNBSU Council Meeting**

UNB Student Union 2020/21

*September 27th, 2020; 7:02PM via Zoom*

*Regrets: Annaka Roscoe*

*Absent: Emmanuel Chris Luis, Jillian Carson, Luc Bouvier, 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 007-20**

*That Council adopts the agenda for September 27, 2020, with the amendment to strike Faculty Councillor updates and add Non-faculty Councillor updates.*

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life

*Motion is carried unanimously.*

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

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

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Everything is relatively the same to previous years' minutes.

The only thing of substance that has changed is the resolution numbers. The first resolution of the year begins with 001-20 and then continues numbering in that order (002-20,003-20, etc.) Unless there are any changes to the minutes, Council's motion will approve the minutes for September 20th, 2020.

#### **Resolution 008-20**

*That Council approves the minutes for the meeting of September 20th, 2020.*

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Jharna Luitel, Computer Science Councillor

*Motion is carried unanimously.*

## **5. Substantive Business**

### **5.1 Non-faculty Councillor Updates**

Sean Mackenzie, President: "I would recommend that we include our senate members if they have updates to share as well as our Board of Governors (BoG). I believe we did this last year. We can go onto Brennan Marks as Jillian Carson and Vienna Monk are absent.

*No update from Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor.*

Fareeha Quayyum, Inclusion Councillor: "Did my check-in with Grace earlier this week, and we discussed what I wanted to do for my councillor project, which was to open up a student service centre for BIPOC students in the SUB. I sent her a rough plan for my idea and key players of who to contact."

Mia Scalabrin, Accessibility Councillor: "I've had a meeting with Rebecca from the Accessibility Centre. Although I am not certain about my project idea yet, I have been in contact with Sadie from Easter Seals NB and hope to collaborate with them for my project. I had my check-in meeting with Grace. Also, I chatted with Kelsi among other executives about the Accessibility Centre."

*Katelynn Pickel-Macdonald, Women's Councillor, has met with the Women's Centre to discuss her councillor project. They were on board, gave good suggestions, and explained how the Centre gives out resources. Katelynn will be having her check-in meeting with Grace soon.*

*Nihla Hussain, International Students Councillor, has met with the new International Student Society president to discuss goals for the year, ideas, and collab potential. They*

*discussed making international week virtual. Nihla will also be having her check-in with Grace soon.*

*No update from Camryn Smith, Student Senator.*

*No update from Joshua Makarov, Student Senator.*

*No update from Lidia Shibre, Student Senator.*

Chloe Jardin, Board of Governors: “I went to my first investment committee meeting, which is the committee I sit on for BoG. Otherwise, I’ve been preparing for the upcoming Board Meeting in October.”

## **5.2 ALPS Amalgamation**

Sean Mackenzie, President: “ALPS (Adult Learners Part-time Students) has reached out to UNB Student Union. They are essentially our counterparts for part-time students and adult learners. However, they are in a situation where it’s hard for them to engage with part-time students and adult learners. I have been speaking with their president, Emmanuel and their executive about having UNBSU represent these part-time students and adult learners. I met with the UNB Secretary and Cindy from Finances to discuss fees, among other logistics. Right now, the priority is for Emmanuel to write a letter of recommendation for us to absorb them and be recognized as the representative for part-time students and adult learners. We will also need to write a letter on behalf of UNBSU, discussing our next steps. There is a strict timeline on this. All materials would have to be sent to the UNB Secretary by early January; however, I feel this can be achieved. My purpose for discussing this today is not only to notify you, but I’m also looking to have the Advancement Committee tasked to write a letter declaring why UNB Student Union should be representing part-time students and adult learners.”

**Resolution 009-20**

*That Advancement Committee be tasked with formulating a letter outlining the reasons why the UNBSU should represent part-time and adult learners.*

Mover: Sean Mackenzie, President

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

**Motion is carried.**

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor: "Why do you think we should represent part-time students and adult learners?"

Sean Mackenzie, President: "The main reasoning is that UNBSU exists to represent all students. ALPS is in a position where they cannot represent part-time students and adult learners as much as they would like. UNBSU can give these students a stronger representation that ALPS is lacking."

Christopher Arisz, Law Councillor: This sounds like a great idea. Is there any point in the committee exploring why we should not go ahead with this? To look at both sides."

Sean Mackenzie, President: "I think this is something to look into while writing the report.

The main purpose of writing this report is to submit it to the Board. I do not want to be writing it solely and then bring it to the Council, amend it, and then bring it back to the Board. I would rather get everyone's voices from the start by writing it collaboratively. This will reduce the back-and-forth and make it easier to get this done for January. If anyone was wondering, I do not have direct information on the financial standings of this potential change (i.e. scholarships, fees, etc.). We should get this information soon. The Advancement Committee can help with this research. Overall, I don't believe this will have a negative financial impact on the UNB Student Union."

**6. Reports to Council**

**6.1 Vice President – Communications**

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications, has been working with Adriana. The two met with Townhouse's president to finalize the Townhouse executive team.
- Deanna contacted UNB Cares to create a FB community group which will help students during the pandemic, among other things.
- Created promotions for Molly's councillor project to be posted later this week.
- Edited and captioned Kelsi's project and posted it.
- Formalized the new UNBSU website. It will contain further information, such as office hours and a digital meeting request form. It will include a section on how to study on campus. It will also have a segment titled "how to get involved at UNB." Finally, another addition to the website will be "UNBSU study tips and tricks" and "how to work Microsoft Teams."
- Deanna has scheduled Clubs Week. There are to be ten posts posted in five days.

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

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life, states that he has been finalizing Safe Ride, which will launch October 5th. Changes will reflect changes in location, etc.
- Vishnu and his team will onboard drivers later this week. Additionally, later this week will be the training to lead up to launch.
- Vishnu and his Food Coordinator have rented out the filming equipment and will try to learn how to use it. They need this to practice filming the videos they have planned to put out throughout the year.
- Vishnu is having a refresher meeting with his coordinators to discuss this academic year.
- Vishnu and Brennan have continued to work on the Drink Smart campaign and have come up with website design. They are still tweaking a few things. Vishnu will be

sending the site to Deanna for review and plans to finalize the Drink Smart logo for this weekend.

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

- Adriana Lefort, VP Finance and Operations, states that she has worked on the budget weekly.
- Adriana and Sean have met with financial advisors to discuss SU's investments, how much SU has, etc.
- Adriana and Vishnu have talked to RBC to discuss the financial literacy workshops they had planned. It appears these will be happening as webinars beginning November.
- ISS is up and running and has elected its executive council.
- A few clubs and societies have reached out to Adriana over the summer about ratification status. However, many have dropped out of their application since they have decided not to receive status due to internal difficulties.
- Clubs Week is all set up and is already more successful than Adriana anticipated.
- She is currently working on an infographic for on-campus events.
- Adriana states that the townhouse executive team has been hired (as volunteers) and that townhouse communication should start soon.
- Adriana is hoping to meet with the Clubs and Societies Committee soon.

### **6.4 Vice President – Internal**

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal, states that she has been reaching out to Chairs of several university committees that have students sitting on them so they can get connected.
- She admits she ran into a few issues with student union committees and with the committee policy. Grace has sorted that out and has gone through the procedure and made recommendations for changes.

- Grace has filled a few spots on Arts Committees. However, she is still missing some spots in the Arts Faculty Council and a few more for Student Disciplinary Committee as alternates.
- Grace attended the first Retail Service Review Committee.
- She's received feedback regarding libraries, so she's reaching out to the Dean of Libraries to meet again. They will go over some of the recommendation's students are making. Grace reminds Council to let her know if there are comments regarding this.
- Grace has begun check-in meetings with councillors. She reminds Council that to get full honorarium, they must participate in check-in meetings. She reminds councillors to schedule them and let her know if there are any problems. Also, she reminds Council that councillor projects need to be approved by her before councillors can begin working on them.

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

- Kelsi Evans, VP Advocacy, states that she's been meeting with the Wellness Coordinator to discuss Sustainability Week. This will be held from October 13th to October 16th. Kelsi is coordinating to ensure that Sustainability Week does not clash with other events that may be going on.
- Kelsi states that activity and event planning for pride month has been a collaborative process as she needs to ensure that this also does not clash with other events being held.
- Kelsi is making sure that People and Pride History is finalized.
- She has been working on Orange Shirt Day graphics and content.
- She has met with Nancy, the Indigenous Wellness Councillor for the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre. Kelsi states that they got to know each other and

discuss priorities and concerns for the year. Nancy will be helping with a workshop during Sustainability Week.

- Kelsi has met with representatives from the Student Accessibility Centre this week to discuss their most significant priorities for students and offered to run an ergonomics session for Sustainability Week and Wellness Week. Kelsi is looking into the logistics for this.
- She has met with the Multicultural Coordinator.
- She has met with the Food Coordinator and Wellness Coordinator to discuss a food sustainability roundtable. Kelsi states that nearly all of the speakers have been confirmed.
- Kelsi has finalized some things for the Sexual Violence campaign. The introduction has been posted, and Kelsi and Deanna will post episode one shortly.
- Kelsi and the Open Educational Resource Working Advocacy and Marketing group are working on the year's campaign. She has reached out to many schools to get testimonies from students and professors. Finally, she is working on content for infographics.

## **6.6 President**

- Sean Mackenzie, President, states that he has received finances for review.
- He has been contacting the policy and advancement committee to set up our first meeting.
- He has had two BoG meetings this week, which Chloe was participating in and one of which the SRC president sat on.
- Sean has prepped for the October board meeting.
- Regarding the ALPS, Sean has met with Cindy and Sarah to deal with that procedure and met with Emmanuel to set up a plan.



- Sean spoke to Brunswick News about online graduation this year.
- Sean also sat on the Retail Service Review Committee this week.
- Sean continuously works on policy and bylaw research.

*Aodhan Murphy closes reports to the Council.*

## **7. Announcements**

Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: "The agendas for this year are available to take in the Welcome Centre of the Student Union Building. Make sure you wear a mask and follow the arrows. Please grab one; they're cute!"

*Aodhan Murphy closes reports to the Council.*

## **8. Question Period**

Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor: "I have a question for Grace. You said you were having a hard time finding people to sit on Arts Council? How many people do you need on this council?"

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "I just need one more person."

Lidia: "Okay, because previously, we had one undergraduate and one graduate student each."

Grace: "Okay, I'll look into that and let you know."

Lidia: "I may have a couple of people interested, but let me know, and we can see from there."

Joshua Makarov, Student Senator: "I have a question for Deanna. The SUB just mentioned that you are allowed two seated at a table to study together; meanwhile, the Cellar, you can have up to a full table. Why a discrepancy between the two?"

Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: "The Cellar is a restaurant; therefore, it has different restrictions than a public space. The SUB managers are Becky and Matt, who are continually updating their limitations (i.e. last week, you only had one person bookings). Every week, the SUB has public health and advises what is best for student/public safety. They have met with Sean and me to ask us what we would want to see from a student perspective. We've brought up that we would like to see larger spaces for more than one person. The managers review the SUB

every week to this possible, as does the HIL. The only thing I can say in terms of why the Cellar is allowed to have more people gathered at a table and the SUB currently is not is because of different management and the fact that the Cellar is a restaurant (giving them fewer restrictions). Sean Mackenzie, President: "For full transparency, I will say that it took a lot to get the Cellar to where it is now. Thanks to excellent management, they could bring in Public Health receive approval on their current practices.

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "Sean and I spoke to Matt at the SUB, and he noted that a logistical issue with the SUB was power chords. When the SUB tables are spaced out, none reach the power outlets making it difficult for students to study there. Small logistical issues such as what I have just noted make it tougher for the SUB to wear their restrictions. The SUB and Cellar are completely different in this way."

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor: "I have a question for Vishnu. Are the agendas only available to students from Fredericton?"

Vishnu Vardhan, VP Student Life: "For now, they are only available to Fredericton students due to shipping costs. I will think about changing this and making students aware that we will ship them out in the future."

Joshua Makarov, Student Senator: "I heard that next semester would be online again. Does the SU have a response to that?"

Sean Mackenzie, President: "I'm not sure where you heard that. There hasn't been an official decision. We have been vocal about our opinions regarding online school versus in-person classes. Once we hear something official, we will make our opinions clear."

*Aodhan Murphy closes questions.*

## **9. Other Business**

Sean Mackenzie, President: "UNB Homecoming would have traditionally been this past weekend. However, this is a reminder that we need to remember we're still amid a pandemic,

and numbers are continuing to jump. My concern is public safety, precisely that of students. As student leaders, we should not be attending such parties and putting ourselves and others at risk. For example, Regent Street and College Hill were full of parties this past weekend as there was no social distancing or mask use. As we discussed earlier, the Cellar and SUB are both privileges that we students have. The government can take away these privileges if they feel that students are the cause of transmission of COVID-19. We do not want students to be the brunt of the situation if there is an outbreak of COVID. We were all sent a Code of Conduct that states that we will not “create or participate in an environment that endangers the health or safety of other people” (see section 11 of the Code of Conduct). A party during these times would be an example of an environment that endangers others. We need to appreciate what we have and follow guidelines.

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: “Speaking of the Cellar, business such as this may not survive if they need to shut down for an extended period.”

## **10. Adjournment**

### **Resolution 010-20**

*That Council adjourn the meeting.*

Mover: Christopher Arisz, Law Councillor

Seconder: Lidia Shibre, Arts Councillor

**Motion is carried.**

**Meeting is adjourned at 7:54 PM.**

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

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