

MINUTES – UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2021/22

December 5, 2021; 7:00PM via Zoom and Tilley 303

Regrets: Stacie

Absent: Ariel, Houda

1. Call to Order

Matt Gysbers, Council Chair, calls the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

1.1. Roll Call

Matt Gysbers performs roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 051-21

***That** Council adopts the agenda for December 5, 2021 as amended.*

Mover: Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald

Seconder: Ridhi Sharma

The motion is carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Matt Gysbers: "No previous minutes were submitted."

5. Substantive Business

5.1. Divestment Discussion

Kordell Walsh: Based on last week's discussion, I looked a bit more into RAVEN. They receive GNB funding and federal funding; they also work closely with a couple profs on campus and students. A few years ago when the divestment campaign was more prominent on campus, the UNBSU was comfortable at the time with supporting them and the work being done. So from what I could tell, it's not a partisan organization which seemed to be the biggest concern we had, so I just wanted to know if folks were interested in us reaching back out to Rose and asking to review the letter when it is ready. If nobody has any concerns, as an action item I will reach out to Rose regarding this.

5.2. Non-Faculty Councillor Updates

Jill Carson: No updates at this time.

Maya Kors: No updates for me. Still looking into a councillor project for next semester.

Mia Scalabrin: I got in contact with someone from the ASL company I'm hoping to work with.

Sangeeth Mylatt Veetil: I met with Ridhi regarding my councillor project. I met with the Multicultural Initiatives Coordinator.

Gaia Noseworthy: The 203 has been ramping down operations due to holidays approaching. Who controls the operation of rooms in the SUB? There has been a few issues with the 203 being blocked from accessing our events because the doors are locked.

Kianna Bear-Heatherington: We created a new Indigenous Student Lounge in the forestry building and had Elder Emelda Perley give the lounge a new name. Indigenous students can use this as a study space, or a bookable office, and in the spring both non-Indigenous and Indigenous students will be welcome and there will be Indigenous art, literature, and smudging available for students to engage with. We've also reached out to the local Indigenous community to share their artwork for the Multicultural Exhibit and we've received a great response. We just released our first edition of the newsletter from the Indigenous Student Council.

Sam Salfi: No update.

Kate Palmer: There's been a lot of progress on my project this week. The proposal has been sent out to Athletics, the Libraries, and all the faculties at UNB and we've received great response. I have a meeting on Wednesday with Student Services to talk about what they may be able to contribute and now our focus is on sponsorships. I also attended the Women's Centre board meeting and I'm hoping to be able to partner with them more through this project.

6. Executive Updates

6.1. Vice President Advocacy, Ojaswi Joshi:

- We finalized the schedule for Wellness Week
- I started the week by helping Anajose with the Multicultural Exhibition, I'm very impressed by what she did as she organized it all by herself
- I also had a meeting with Sangeeth and I think we will collaborate for the Cultural Week
- I completed the Primary Event Organizer Training
- We had to postpone the dog room to next semester and will have a chill room instead
- I recently completed my yoga trainers certificate and am excited to have a class for the public
- I met with Hilary from the ISAO to talk about how we can connect international students with domestic students. It's been four years that I've been here and there's still a huge gap between international and domestic students to the point where if I've organized any events with the International Student Association I get questions if domestic students can show up
- I also talked with Tea about the EDI plan
- I attended a few advocacy week meetings with the NBSA

6.2. Vice President Communications, Amanda Smith:

- Obviously this week was my first week so it was mostly transition
- I met with Kordell to go over the transition report, and then went to the main office to get my key and do payroll

- I met with Niko to talk about the transition with her and figure out what worked for her and what didn't
- I also met with Gina from marketing at UNB and we'll have regular monthly meetings just so that we're on the same page with them, they also invited me to be a representative for mature students
- I met with Kordell again to go over the newsletter
- I met with Brennan and Molly to chat about upcoming events
- I met with Meredith our Graphic Designer to talk about workflow and making it as easy for everybody as possible

6.3. Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks:

- This week Molly and I did a lot of work on the winter carnival schedule
- The Good Neighbours sub-committee started their work on the brochure rebrand and programming
- Met with Tim from Sodexo about CANNO, the new re-usable containers program adopted by Sodexo and how we can get students interested in it post-covid
- We had a lot of Hamper Food Boxes this month, so much that Greener Village couldn't deliver them all at once so we'll have to coordinate with them for next month
- Sean and Nicole submitted the Environmental Trust Fund application for next year
- I met with Bob from the Exhibition Grounds that they felt we could use for Winter Carnival, and we will cross promote the Winter Frolic
- Our SafeRide Coordinator has resigned for personal reasons
- Met with Kathy Wilson about COVID-19
- I met with Curriculum Committee about experiential education

6.4. Vice President Internal, Ridhi Sharma:

- I attended the rose ceremony for the HIL Commons
- Finals @ UNB is happening beginning December 10, there will be free coffee and lots of other stuff
- I emailed Becky regarding the booking for the ballroom, so we're sticking to the first week as planned
- I emailed Shawna Bergin from the Registrar's office and have an email next week
- I reached out to Julie regarding senator appointments
- I had check-in meetings with councillors
- I got most of the councillor honoraria forms, I'm still missing some so if you haven't submitted please let me know ASAP
- I met with Mike Nason about OERs and the exam bank
- I'm also going to meet with the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Librarians to talk about OERs
- I'm meeting Mark Walma on Wednesday, and I met with Caroline and Kate about the menstrual product proposal

6.5. Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald:

- I started off the week with a meeting with EUS executives regarding the Pillar Pubs
- I gave a tour to the clubs and societies coordinator, Tasneem, because she just got to Canada in the last two weeks and she hasn't been to campus. This is a great thing to do in your role as a councillor as well, it's really helpful.

- I had an interview with the Brunswickan
- I sent out the clubs and societies package and approved clubs and societies funding
- We had a conversation about Orientation Chair salary
- I met with Gillian about PEO training
- I met with Houda regarding her councillor project and where we can get funds from
- I sent out interview times for Townhouse and RED Awards Chair interviews

6.6. President, Kordell Walsh:

- This week was NBSA's Advocacy Week, so I had quite a few advocacy meetings. I met with UNB Fredericton's leadership team, the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce with an in-person meeting, the Green Caucus, and the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations
- I met with Amanda to talk training and the newsletter
- I met with Caroline, Kate, Ridhi regarding the menstrual product dispenser proposal and the next steps with the great feedback
- I met with Sara, Gillian, and Katelynn regarding O-Chair salary for next year
- I had an NBSA Sustainability meeting where we introduced ourselves to the student representatives from each of the campuses
- I'm hoping Selections Committee can meet to interview the Council Secretary soon, although exams are fast approaching so I'm not sure
- I put my name forward for the Director of Advocacy position with CASA and was appointed by the Board to that position on Friday
- I've been working to plan for the emergency council meeting and the next steps after that
- The minimum wage increase is a very welcome announcement, however it is going to have major impacts on the Student Union. We have had very low student fees over the past few years. We work with a really tight budget, and this increase will cost us tens of thousands of dollars. So a fee increase will likely have to come very soon.
- Lastly, two reminders – one, we have an emergency council meeting so please attend if at all possible. Second, just a reminder about councillor updates – you're allowed to share your student union committee updates, you're allowed to share updates from your faculty councils and faculties, any small updates are worth it. If you are hearing concerns from students in classes, that's also a great use of councillor updates.

7. Question Period

Gaia Noseworthy: Approximately how many students pay student union fees?

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald: We estimate for approximately 5500 full time and 550 part time students.

Gaia Noseworthy: So we're talking about the minimum wage increase, so why is that impacting the student union at the moment?

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald: For example, we pay all of our part-time employees minimum wage plus 25 cents. That's our Director of Campus Events, our SafeRide drivers, our Welcome Centre students, Council Secretary. I estimated it and thought it would cost us about \$12,000 but that's just a rough estimate.

Gaia Noseworthy: So that should come to a \$3 increase per student?

Kordell Walsh: That roughly \$12,000 doesn't account for CPP contributions and all the other hidden costs that we as an organization have, so our General Manager will be getting us more accurate estimates later. Another thing is that we as an executive make \$15 an hour, is there questions over whether that should be raised and keep our salaries competitive and draw folks in if minimum wage is going to be \$13.75? We also have a fourth SafeRide van, will that mean we have more drivers, more shifts, more stops? There's a conversation to be had with council over all of that but there's a lot of implications that could be had on that.

Gaia Noseworthy: Should a committee be looking at this, or should it stay on the table for later?

Kordell Walsh: Our hope is to take this back to council in January and if needed task it to a committee. Just where we don't have the exact numbers right yet, I feel like a committee can't really get traction on it.

Sean MacKenzie: This is more of a comment touching on executive pay. I know Kordell, you kind of breezed over it and I know all of the executives will be hesitant to jump at it but I just want to throw it out there that I do agree that with minimum wage going up \$2 we should be looking at this pay. As is, even compared to other schools across Canada, that is another thing we are on the lower end of. But I think that is something we should look at.

Gaia Noseworthy: Do our fees, as they stand, adjust with inflation? If not is that something we'll look at for the future.

Kordell Walsh: They don't yet, but it's something Katelynn, Karen and I have been having.

Maya Kors: This question is for Ojaswi, do you need volunteers for Wellness Week. If yes, how do we sign up?

Ojaswi Joshi: No, we have enough volunteers now, thank you. But our schedule is going up tomorrow so please share with your friends and attend any events.

8. Announcements

Kordell Walsh: Just a reminder that there is the emergency council meeting tomorrow. Please if you can attend do so, and if you cannot let me know!

Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald: If you haven't submitted your honoraria forms please submit them to Ridhi as soon as possible, and those that have your checks are available in the Welcome Centre.

9. Adjournment

Resolution 052-21

That Council adjourns the meeting.

Mover: Gaia Noseworthy

Secunder: Ojaswi Joshi

Motion is carried.