

MINUTES – 4th UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2020/21

October 18th, 2020; 7:02 PM via Zoom

Regrets: Emmanuel Luis

Absent: Cameryn Smith, Lidia Shibre



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 020-20

That Council adopts the agenda for October 18th, 2020, with the amendment of strike item 5.7, Presentation of the Budget.

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Sean Mackenzie, President

The motion is carried.

3. Chair's Remarks

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "We have a few documents to go along with tonight's meeting. I sent the link to Google Drive either by Facebook or by email. I'll also share my screen for anything critical. Just make sure to take a look at the documents we have in the folder for tonight."

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Resolution 021-20

That Council approves the minutes for the meeting of October 4th, 2020.

Mover: Molly Pittman, Management Councillor

Seconder: Grace Pelkey, Vice President Internal

The motion is carried.

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Oaths of Appeals Officers

Aodhan Murphy, Matt Oliver and Mac Stephen took the following oath:

I do swear that I will faithfully, truly and impartially, to the best of my skill and knowledge, fulfill and perform my duties as [Chief Appeals Officer/Associate Appeals Officer] of the University of New Brunswick Student Union Incorporated.

5.2 Councillor Updates

Annaka Roscoe, Off-Campus Councillor: "This week, I don't have much of an update. I'll be attending our internal affairs committee meeting. but other than that, no updates."

Brennan Marks, Inclusion Councillor: "I just had my meeting with Grace. We discussed some of the committees. I will also be attending the internal affairs committee this week."

Christopher Ariz, Law Councillor: "I sent out the message that I mentioned at the last Council meeting. I have not had any replies. I'm still looking at sitting in on the LSS Council meetings."

Chloe Jardine, Board of Governors: "I attended the Board of Governors meeting this past week, and it was a very eventful meeting. There will be updates coming out soon, I'm sure. Other than that, there hasn't been too much going on."

Fareeha Qayyum, Inclusion Councillor: "I plan on reaching out to the Human Rights Office based on my meeting with Grace a few weeks ago."

Jillian Carson, Residence Councillor, is absent.

Joshua Makarov, Student Senator: "No big updates, but I do have a Teacher Awards meeting coming up for some committees."

Katelynn Pickel Macdonald, Women's Councillor: "My only update is that we've decided what the date will be for the Women's Centre meeting. I hope to have my council project approved by then so I can ask for their input. Off of that meeting, I'm going to try and schedule a couple of sub-meetings with some of the members of the Women's Centre to get logistics figured out."

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "There was a Senate meeting held on Tuesday, October 13th. I attended that with the rest of the student senators. The Senate approved the graduation list and also ratified the decision of the COVID Emergency Response Committee to change some of the academic dates on the undergraduate calendar. UNB would have emailed this update to all students in the last COVID update. Finally, we discussed what to expect in the upcoming semester. I thought this last meeting was fruitful, and I look forward to that in the weeks ahead."

Mia Scalabrin, Accessibility Coordinator: "I had a chat with Melissa, and I planned who the moderator would be for one of the workshops during Wellness Week. I'm still waiting to hear back from the Chair of the Accessibility Committee. Also, I'm still brainstorming an idea for my councillor project."

Vienna Munck, LGBTQ Councillor, is absent.

Madeleine Smith, Nursing Councillor: "I sent out an email, introducing myself to all of the nursing students and letting them know about my role on Council. I'm working on some anti-racism in nursing education ideas, so I reached out to an indigenous nursing leader in New Brunswick. We're further discussing some of these ideas."

5.3 First Reading of Updated Bylaws

Sean Mackenzie, President: "I'll go over the significant changes made to the Bylaws. The only differences were to Bylaw I and Bylaw II; no changes were made to Bylaw III. The significant changes, as you can see, are highlighted. I won't go in-depth as I hope you've already had a chance to read these changes. Also, we will be having a second reading next week. The first significant change was made as the definition of the Indigenous Student Council was added. The second change was that we updated how the Indigenous Student Representative is selected and when they should be chosen on an annual basis. The third major update was rather than ratification; the Indigenous Student Council will appoint the Indigenous Student Representative upon a written letter of recommendation (as the Council has defined earlier in the Bylaws). Meaning no voting is needed, which was the purpose of these three critical adjustments to the Bylaws. Number four is that we updated how a vacancy may occur in the Indigenous Student Representative's role and how they may be removed from this role if that ends up being a situation that arises. We also added that the Indigenous Student Representative would no longer be selected during the annual general elections, similar to the First-Year Representative. To specify, they would be appointed by the Indigenous Student Council as defined in the Bylaws by May 1st (the start of the fiscal year). Breana Andrews will be taking on this role as soon as these Bylaws are approved. I've reviewed these with her, and I involved her in the process of creating these. I would also add that the former VP Advocacy Mick Jeffries; also, an indigenous student has reviewed the changes. If there are any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to ask away now."

Molly Pittman, Management Councillor: "I have two things. Last year on the Advancement Committee, we had talked about making the VP Finance role a hired position, but it didn't happen in time for the election. I'm wondering if we're still in the same mindset of making this a hired position. If we are, do we task this to the Advancement Committee or Policy Committee?"

Sean Mackenzie: "I'll touch on that, but if you want me to go deeper into this topic, I can do so during the question period. With VP Finance, I know the Executive Council has discussed it. I haven't found any finalized documents from the Advancement Committee. However, I will look into it more if that would help and get back to you."

Molly Pittman: "It was a topic of discussion for three or four meetings, but we didn't get to a finalized decision because we knew it wouldn't happen in time for the general election. I also don't understand why you can't be VP Communications and a Councillor at the same time just because VP Communications doesn't have voting rights."

Sean Mackenzie: "To stay on the topic of the changes to the Bylaws, I'd recommend you re-ask that during the question period. I'd be happy to answer."

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Are there any questions regarding the highlighted changes? Perhaps anyone wondering about the intent behind these changes or reasonings for changes?"

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "Sean, you mentioned that the Bylaws state what the Indigenous Student Council is. I don't see that right at first glance. Could you point me towards that?"

Sean Mackenzie: "It's under section III. It says, 'In all Bylaws of the Union, the Indigenous Student Council if deemed necessary, may be replaced with another group that is representative of indigenous perspectives via a two-thirds majority of council members.' Under that, section A states, 'Council must consult with the Mi'kmaq-Wolastoqey Centre (MWC) and the Piluwitahasuwin to decide what groups could be considered representative of indigenous perspectives.' The current Indigenous Student Council, by definition, is precisely that."

Luc Bouvier: "That only really describes how we would replace the Indigenous Student Council with another body representative of indigenous views; it doesn't describe what the Indigenous Student Council is. I think that might be valuable."

Sean Mackenzie: "Right. I agree with you, Luc. Thank you for pointing that out."

Luc Bouvier: "I appreciate that this appointment mechanism is more consistent with indigenous governance. My only concern with this would be that that is a body that could become unrepresentative of indigenous students at large if this Council were to become more representative of one particular student and their group of friends. That might be a disturbance to the wider student indigenous population at UNB. Especially where we're saying this position isn't going to be elected any more. It's difficult, I think, for a lot of students to see how that could empower that group of people by taking that voted representative away and having somebody appointed by a smaller set of students instead."

Aodhan Murphy: "I would note very quickly that I take your concern about the definition of Indigenous Student Council, that's merited. When you have language like 'another group representative of indigenous perspectives,' it undermines that the Indigenous Student Council's mandate would serve that purpose. So, this section protects and intervenes from that sort of event happening. If deemed necessary, you could act on that because that group is no longer serving the mandate that undermines this section of the Bylaw. However, I do think that this section of the Bylaw could be changed to be more transparent."

Sean Mackenzie: "What we could do is we could bring this back to policy to receive better clarity on it as well as provide a definition of the Indigenous Student Council. These points have merit. Rather than making a motion to approve the first reading, I could bring this back to the Policy Committee and then the Policy Committee could add those in there, and we will present this again next week with the changes."

Resolution 022-20

That Council refers to the changes to Bylaw I to the Policy Committee for additional clarification on the Indigenous Student Council's definition and related matters.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie

Seconder: Vishnu Vardhan

The motion is carried.

5.4 Executive Roles and Voting for ALPS Students

Sean Mackenzie: "As you know, the Advancement Committee is currently looking at Adult Learners and Part-Time Students (ALPS) and looking at the amalgamation of them to fall under the Student Union. We ran into a few questions, some we felt we could answer with a bit of research—however, one we wanted to look into more.

We want to see about tasking the Internal Affairs Committee with these questions: What would be the executive roles' requirements? Would it still be open to anyone? Could anyone in one course realistically qualify, or would we add some conditions onto that? Would we keep the requirements that any VP role requires you are a full-time student?' We were not sure about this and weren't sure if it would fall into our mandate. We felt the Internal Affairs Committee would be the best group to decide this then make a recommendation directly to us to include in our recommendations to the Board of Governors that will be presented later in the year upon approval of the Council, of course. Does anyone have any comments on this?"

Resolution 023-20

That we task the Internal Affairs Committee with reviewing executive roles in the event of amalgamation with ALPS.

Mover: Sean Mackenzie

Seconder: Grace Pelkey

The motion is carried.

5.5 Ratification of NAYGN Club

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "I have a club called North American Young Generation and Nuclear (NAYGN), and I sent their constitution out with the agenda. They're seeking ratification status, and I've reviewed their constitution. I don't see any issues with it. I had my Clubs and Societies Coordinator check it, and she did not see any problems. As long as there are no questions, concerns, or anything, then I would like to motion to ratify the club."

Resolution 024-20

That Council ratifies the NAYGN club.

Mover: Adriana Lefort

Seconder: Vishnu Vardhan

The motion is carried.

5.6 Recognition Status of BIS

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "This club is called the Bachelor of Integrative Studies Society. They are seeking recognition status. They were going to seek ratification, but as per policies, 50% of your executive needs to be full-time undergraduate students, and the BIS has a larger number of part-time students sitting on the executive. They seek recognition status hoping that with the amalgamation of ALPS, they can seek ratification status."

Resolution 025-20

That Council recognizes the BIS.

Mover: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

Seconder: Deanna Merriam, VP Communications

The motion is carried.

5.7 Councillor Position Titles

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "There are currently councillor position titles that no longer accurately represent the demographic of students that they were originally intended to represent. I'd like to have the Internal Affairs Committee look at possible new position titles to fit some of those positions better and to represent those students better. I don't have any specific ones that I'd like to look at as I don't want Council to think that I'm targeting certain council positions. The positions that do get looked at, I will make sure to get included in the conversation that the Internal Affairs Committee has."

Resolution 026-20

To refer to the Internal Affairs Committee the renaming of position titles

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations

The motion is carried.

5.8 Replacement of the LGBTQ Initialism within all UNBSU Documents

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "Currently in all Student Union documents, we use LGBTQ to represent the two-spirit, trans, and queer community. This is outdated, and I believe it leaves out the two-spirit community. Again, I'd like to have the Internal Affairs Committee review and look for a replacement name for this initialism."

Resolution 027-20

That Council refers to the Internal Affairs Committee, the replacement of the LGBTQ initialism within all SU documents.

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

The motion is carried.

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Communications

- Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: "This week, I made a series of pride history posters that will be going out as of tomorrow. I made up some promotions for pride events this week, which Melissa can discuss further.
- I've been working with the student experience team to create more student engagement initiatives and compile student success tips.
- I've helped Melissa with sustainability week, which just ended. I made event promos and filmed the student sustainability tips video that just went out on our Instagram and Facebook pages. I filmed a Saferide informational video for Vishnu. I edited and captioned it, and it will be going out Tuesday afternoon around 4 PM.
- I compiled councillor updates that we have up to date in our minutes to put them up on our website for easy access.
- Then I reviewed some nominees and prepared for the Teaching Awards Committee, which is coming up this week."

6.2 Vice President – Student Life

- Vishnu Vardhan, VP of Student Life: "I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. My update will be in regards to the last two weeks.
- I had a meeting with the Board of Governors of the Fredericton Co-op about a project we want to do for the students living at EPJ. It would be a pilot project to see if we could get the food bags back up and running.
- Brennan (DrinkSmart Coordinator) and I met with Sara Rothman from Student Services. At this meeting, April Kennedy from Counselling and Taylor Stacy from the Student

Health Centre were present. We discussed what sort of programming we can do for this.

As for the website design, we are still working on it and hopefully finish reasonably soon.

- I had a meeting with Sean Mackenzie to see how student services are going, and they seem to be going well along with SafeRide. The next revision of the COVID Operational Plan for SafeRide is coming up, so I'll be meeting with my SafeRide Coordinator to do that.
- I had a meeting with the Associate Alumni Committee and the Student Services Committee.
- For reading week, I plan on releasing a small series of videos called the "Study with Me - Pomodoro Sessions" to see if it will stick or not. It will be two to three videos of different lengths, and these videos will act as a motivation to study. I tried to do one this morning. I'll be meeting with Melissa Ghanem to see what we can change.
- I am so sorry for not setting up the meetings for the Committees that I am chairing, Awards and DrinkSmart; I will be sending the meeting invites and Doodle Polls later this week.
- Lastly, I will be doing a panel on the nursing students' cultural competency training with the ISAO on October 20th. The training is a cultural awareness workshop. I'm pretty excited about this."

6.3 Vice President – Finance & Operations

- Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "There's been quite a lot of confusion surrounding events and specifically, Cellar Trivia for clubs and societies. I've been in the process of addressing all of that as it's disorganized. COVID guidelines are continuously changing, so I've been addressing these changes with clubs and societies.
- I've also been discussing operational items with clubs and organizations.

- I helped Melissa out with a few things for Sustainability Week.
- I met with the Post-Secondary Relations Committee.
- I also met with some UNB Admin members to discuss student engagement, precisely, first-years' sense of community. We're meeting again tomorrow to bring my ideas to light.
- I met with Brennan to discuss the RC Society.
- I met with Molly to discuss a project with RBC.
- I finally finished the budget as all of the confirmed numbers have come in and have reviewed it with the Executive Committee and will be bringing it to the next meeting with the Finance Committee. The budget should be ready for Council by next week.
- Finally, I started preparing for the hiring for the Orientation Chair, which will begin next week.

6.4 Vice President – Internal

- Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "This week I have met with Sara Rothman about the tutor inventory and have set this to all the academic clubs and societies at UNB to try to get more tutor applications.
- I also took the CASA Board Liaison call this week.
- I attended the pre-senate meeting with all of the Student Senators and even the Senate on Tuesday.
- I finished going through the committee applications that I have received so far.
- I had a meeting with George McClain, VP Academic, about the changes made to the academic term's start. We discussed some concerns I had and came up with some possible solutions.

- I discussed the results of the first-year survey with Sara Rothman and a few others. We've been brainstorming how we can bring these results forward to professors before the end of the term.
- I've been in contact with the Dean of Libraries, and I'm happy to announce that the Science Library has opened. The booking times are now set for five hours. I have set up a meeting with her for this upcoming week, and we'll go over statistics for users of the library so we can try to expand those hours even more.
- Finally, I attended the Retail Service Review Committee meeting.

6.5 Vice President – Advocacy

- Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy: "For the past two weeks with the help of the Executive Team, I was able to complete Sustainability Week successfully. Overall, we had five live sessions and two posts, thanks to VP Communications.
- I met with campus sexual support advocates, and we're looking to see how we can move forward with the sexual violence campaign. We're strategizing the campaign ideas and making sure that they align with their goal of creating awareness. There are concerns regarding their services right now as they are limiting their usefulness for students. Currently, if you're a survivor but did not experience sexual assault on campus, you can no longer receive services from them. I'm looking to clarify this and advocate to remove this rule, if possible.
- I will be meeting with the learning strategist from the Student Accessibility Centre for the Wellness Weeks session that Mia had mentioned. There are also concerns regarding the Centre's process where students have to reach out to the profs themselves rather than the Centre. I'm going to look into this and any alternative options that can better support the students who registered with the Centre.

- VP internal and I met with the Sexual Diversity Rep to discuss Pride History Month. Overall, we will be having two workshops and an online trivia night. We will also be providing textbook support for the across campus intersectionality panel.
- I accepted ten new wellness week volunteers.
- I'll be meeting with the Multicultural Initiatives Coordinator next week for the first time. I'm excited to work with them and get some much needed new initiatives for our diverse group of students.
- I met with CASA's National Advocacy Committee to discuss a campaign they've been working on that addresses financial struggles, international student experiences, issues impacting students, etc. I'm very excited to get involved with that.
- I also reached out to the Fredericton Helping Tree in hopes of expanding their tree so that there's a separate section specifically for student resources or across-campus student resources. Unfortunately, the Government of New Brunswick no longer supports this program. As an alternative, I'll be reaching out to other external resources and ensuring that students' supports are well-known in the community.
- Finally, I'll be looking at writing a statement in light of Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq Nation's current events. If anyone would like to provide their input in regards to that, then that would be great."

6.6 President

- Sean Mackenzie, President: "Advancement Committee met to continue our discussion on ALPS, and we've set excellent groundwork so far so our next steps will be to do some further research, reconvene with the committee, decide based off that research, what our thoughts are, and go from there.

- I attended part two of the Board of Governors meeting along with Chloe and Patrick from SAINT JOHN. I also attended two of the Committees.
- The Policy Committee met as you all saw and worked on the Bylaws. I'm excited to work on these further.
- I sat with the Bi-campus Health Committee, which is a COVID Response Committee. I sat with the Self-isolation Committee. Not much came from the Bi-campus Health Committee; however, the Self-isolation Committee is currently working extremely hard. It's expected that international students will be allowed into Canada and the province in the coming weeks/months. We're looking to ensure that they are well supported (see what the Student Union and UNB can help them).
- I did two CASA Board Liaison calls for my role as one of the Directors of CASA.
- I met with our Townhouse Coordinator, whom I've decided I'll be meeting with at least bi-weekly as he has a lot of online events planned. He was telling me about some themed events, so he's looking at possibly hosting a Halloween event, so keep your eyes out for that if you want to participate.
- I was with Grace on the Retail Service Review Committee.
- Lastly, I attended the NBSA. I'm very excited to announce that I just passed a policy focusing on systemic racism in New Brunswick. This is very exciting, given how long overdue it is.

Aodhan Murphy closes reports to the Council.

7. Announcements

Grace Pelkey, VP Internal: "This is less of an announcement and more of a reminder to all Councillors. Make sure you're submitting a written update (the updates you give to Council each week) just to make sure you're writing these out and sending them to VP Communications at communication@unbsu.ca."

Aodhan Murphy closes announcements.

8. Question Period

Molly Pittman: "In section 21 of the Bylaws it says that, 'the following people are disqualified from being a Councillor of the Union,' and one of them is VP Communications. Honestly, I think this could have just been an error when added into the Bylaws because it doesn't make sense why VP Communication can't simultaneously be a Councillor and VP Communications. It will be similar to being a Senator and a Councillor simultaneously, which has happened before in previous years. I was wondering if we could task the Policy Committee to change that in the Bylaws or get your opinion on it."

Aodhan Murphy, Council Chair: "Were you referring to Section 21 of Bylaw 1?"

Sean Mackenzie, President: "Is it 21 or 20?"

Aodhan Murphy: "I think it's 20. 21 is just the endorsement. The section is 20, and it says, 'the following people are disqualified from being a Councillor of the Union,' it runs through all of them... "

Molly Pittman: "Sorry, I was looking at the final Bylaws in the draft. In that one, it's 21."

Aodhan Murphy: "Ok. So the section includes VP Communications. Any student can advocate for the Policy Committee to make recommendations. Once the Policy Committee makes those recommendations to report, the Council can adopt them. You can do that tonight if you like. You can do it anytime. Does anyone want to discuss it further?"

Luc Bouvier, Student Senator: "I think the thing with that isn't just a fear of double voting power. I think part of the reason is that students don't elect VP Communications. Rather they are appointed by the students who have already been elected executives. I also think that because one of the Council's big responsibilities is to oversee the Student Union, by enabling an executive also to be a councillor would be questionable as Councillors are the people who are supposed to be overseeing the acts of Student Union."

Molly Pittman: "That's a good point, Luc. Just for clarification, I wasn't trying to make VP Communications have voting power, but rather, to also be a Councillor at the same time."

Deanna Merriam, VP Communications: "I don't recommend that the VP Communications hold another position on Council. Simply because at first glance, that would mean that the Councillor position I hold would lose their voting rights because the VP Communications role holds no voting rights. When you're talking about the Senate and internal and that relationship between those two positions, they are extremely intertwined. I don't think that my role is directly related to any other position on the Council. My concern is what is in the best interest of the student body. If you have two people doing two different roles, I think that's much better for the students as both people can fully commit and represent each of those roles, rather than one person trying to juggle both. Also, regarding what Luc said, I think it would be hard to come to Council as an executive and then be governed by the Council that you sit on. I think there are too many intertwinements there. I just think it would be best for the students if two separate people were to hold those positions as they could divide their attention on what they're elected to do."

Molly Pittman: "Sorry, when I was referring to a Student Senator being a Councillor at the same time, it was a few years ago, for example. You can technically be both, which is what I was referring to."

Deanna Merriam: "I think that regardless, if there is interest from other people in the roles that are being discussed, then it makes sense. Personally, being in the role of VP Communications, I know that it's a big job. If I was, let's say, a Faculty Councillor, I would owe it to the faculty and the student I'm representing to do so with my full attention. Having both roles, you're responsible for so much that I'm not sure if that's best for our students."

Adriana Lefort, VP Finance & Operations: "Deanna touched on this, and I was about to say almost the same thing. An executive's workload with the added workload would look extremely hard. To me, in the grand scheme of things, it would be hard to complete both fully. As Deanna said, it wouldn't be best for students as it would be hard to fulfill both roles."

Aodhan Murphy: "Molly, I think you had also mentioned the VP Finance & Operations as a hired position. Did you also want to touch on that?"

Molly Pittman: "Sure. Last year, we had talked a lot about why we wanted VP Finance & Operations to be a hired role. I know that there was some documentation, but it wasn't by any means a finalized document. So I was just wondering if you, Sean, could look into it a bit further and that we could talk about it at our next meeting."

Sean Mackenzie, President: "I can look to see if I have any documents. I know there was one meeting we brought up. I remember the Advancement Committee had been tasked with this exactly when COVID had shut everything down. I can look through and let everyone know what I find at the next Council meeting."

Adriana Lefort: "Sean, is that going to go to the Councillor or the Advancement Committee? If it goes to the Advancement Committee, I'd like to be a part of that discussion given that I sit in the role of VP Finance & Operations."

Sean Mackenzie: "We would bring to Council whatever it is we have. If this is something we look at, I want to ensure there's enough research done. The best way to do that research is to compare our procedures to other universities and ask them what they think. Some universities have the VP Finance & Operations done the way we do, and some have it done, so they are hiring this role. I'll bring this back to Council, and if the Council decides it's the best option, we can send it to Advancement. I will note that Advancement currently has a large project on their plate. Therefore, they may delay this task. We can certainly look into it."

Chloe Jardine, Board of Governors, stated that UPEI had a lot of success with a hired VP Finance & Operations and gave comparisons.

Adriana Lefort: "Maybe we can make a note to talk to Sam about this as he was in this position before and might have some thoughts on this topic."

Aodhan Murphy closes the question period.

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Resolution 028-20

That Council adjourns the meeting.

Mover: Grace Pelkey, VP Internal

Seconder: Melissa Ghanem, Interim VP Advocacy

The motion is carried.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:10 PM

Secretary: _____

President: _____