

AGENDA – Emergency UNBSU Council Meeting

UNB Student Union 2021/22

August 22, 2021; 7:00PM via Zoom

Regrets: Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy; Kianna Bear Hetherington, Maya Kors, Meghan Budd

Absent: Téa Fazio, Sangeeth Mylatt Veetill, Camryn Smith, Ariel Lee



1. Call to Order

UNBSU Acting Chairperson, Ria Sabitry, calls the meeting in order at 7:00 PM.

1.1 Roll Call

Acting Chairperson, Sabitry, performs the roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

President, Kordell Walsh, suggests removing item 4: Approval of Previous Minutes from the

agenda because President Walsh wasn't able to send the previous meeting minutes to VP

Internal, Deanna Merriam, and states that they will be available for the next council meeting.

Resolution 008-21

That Council adopts the agenda for August 22, 2021 with the amendments to remove item 4: Approval of Previous Minutes.

Mover: Deanna Merriam

Seconder: Jharana Luitel

Vote passes unanimously.

Amended agenda approved.

3. Chair's Remarks

Acting Chairperson Sabitry makes remarks by stating " I would like to thank everybody for attending the meeting today, even though, the meeting request was sent recently. It shows

everybody's dedication and commitment to their designated roles. So, thank you so much for being here."

4. Approval for previous minutes

Acting Chairperson Sabitry states " We are going to skip it since Kordell has mentioned to us about that".

5. Substantive Business

5.1 Appointment of Interim Vice President - Finance and Operations

President, Kordell Walsh, puts forth, " For the VP Finance and Operations, the Interim appointment, we left the application period open for a bit over a week. We will do this in two parts - we will provide context into how we came to the recommendation and then we do have the individual we would like to recommend for appointment present with us. So, we will have someone pass their speaking rights to them so they can share a bit about themselves, and we can answer any questions from there. We left the application period open for a bit over a week. We received 7 applications, which we felt was a great number, and we met as the executive committee, and we agreed to shortlist 4 candidates for interviews because of time commitment (it was going to be hard to schedule 7 in) and we could feel these 4 would be the best 4 who were fit but they were all great applicants. In that meeting, we created a list of what we wanted to see in candidates and some of the big items were: we had hoped they would have some financial background, budgeting experience, clubs and societies' experience, general Student Union knowledge, willingness to learn, strong communication skilled, adaptable

and someone who is able to stand their ground, we thought this would be especially beneficial clubs and societies' wise where sometimes clubs and societies might not be happy with a decision that might be made, especially long term where SERC is looking to change event approval so we will have a bit more influence over clubs and societies event approval so we felt someone comfortable standing their ground was important and we also preferred someone who was an upper-year as we felt they would have a bit more knowledge over what the SU is but by no means that was a deal-breaker. So, we created our shortlist and interviewed 4 candidates and then we met as a committee to deliberate and ultimately came to the recommendation to appoint Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald as the Interim VP. Katelynn had a really strong application and we felt she ticked all of those boxes. Her interview was really strong, and she touched on things like our strategic plan and how she wanted to bring her own spin on the ideas that we already had, and it was clear that she had put consideration into the position. She also had experience working with both council and somewhat of the executive, having been the Director of Campus Events, she would have worked in the hallway with us and worked closely with last year's executive team. She overall had a really strong application and interview, and we felt she had the experience that would lend well to taking over this position, especially in this sort of time, at the end of summer where the VPs are going down to part-time hours so it's going to make the transition slightly more difficult, so someone who had a bit more experience will be beneficial. And, if any of the other VPs have anything to add that I didn't touch on, feel free to speak up and if not, then we can pass on the floor to Katelynn to share a bit about herself."

Katelynn: "Alright, I will take that as a no, and I will just go ahead. As Kordell said I have worked with and for the Student Union for about 3 years. I am going into my fifth year of

my BBA. So, I am also a finance concentrate so that's where that understanding of finance comes from. I was on the clubs and societies committee two years ago, once Sam Arseneau was VPFO, so I have an understanding of how funding requests go through and the steps that are taken for that. I was DCE last year, for the last term, so I have an understanding of working in the hallway and also communication when creating events which is helpful when it comes to clubs and societies, communication is really important for their events and making sure they know what funding they are getting. I was the Women's Representative last year on council, so I understand how the council is run virtually and hopefully, we would be able to do some stuff in person. I can answer any questions if anyone has any questions for me."

Sabitry: "Alright, so I believe there are no questions, so Vish wished you congratulations."

Resolution 009-21

That Council appoints Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald as the Interim Vice President Finance and Operations until the fall term by-election.

Mover: Kordell Walsh

Seconder: Deanna Merriam

So, the motion will be a bit different. We will be using the secret ballot. I will ask everybody to send me an email at chair@unbsu.ca with a yes, no or abstain vote and I can tally them up later. I guess if there are more yes than no, then she will be appointed to the role."

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President – Internal

Deanna Merriam: “ Same deal as before, I sent the executive reports for the past two weeks and where this a shorter council meeting, what I might to do is open the floor to the executives to add anything to their reports that they may have. I, for one, do not have anything to add to my report that was submitted. So, Kordell will pass it to you.”

6.2 President

- We had NBSA Planning and Policy conference and there were some problems with it. Some significant difficulty with starting on time, with communication on when we are actually going to start, and things like that which created some frustrations and miscommunications.
- We didn't get a full conference cycle in, and I did miss the second or third day, Thursday afternoon, Friday I worked and Saturday we were supposed to start and didn't start on time.
- I will be working with the council to discuss NBSA through the next few months. I said in the executive report that the NBSA conference was happening, and it did happen, but it was a bit of a difficult conference.

6.3 Vice President – Student Life

- My executive report is most up to date.
- I spent most of the day, Friday, setting up a Tower Garden and whenever, anyone gets back on campus, I am hoping that my plants have survived the weekend. Be sure to check them out in the Blue Room in the SUB.

6.4 Vice President – Communications

- Announcement of the vaccination policy. I did some media work yesterday, so I did interviews with a few different news outlets and answered emails from news outlets on our stance on the vaccination policy. It's all very similar to our statement that was made public.

7. Question Period

Vishnu Vardhan: " Would it be possible for the exec team to give a quick run-through of the exec report?"

Kordell Walsh: " We had an NBSA board meeting and NBSA conference was said to happen this weekend and then CASA is in GOTV mode so they have been great at providing an asset library for promotion sand branding and they will be also sending us merch and that will be coming through our social media soon. We had a meeting with Student Services and it's been a lot of committee meetings and hearing from University Administration especially in relation to COVID and what fall term would look like. I have been speaking almost daily with Kathy Wilson who is the interim VP Academic of UNB Fredericton and she is also the chair of the health emergencies bi-campus steering committee which is the COVID committee. The only other big thing is I sat in on the Student Event Risk Management Committee and the big thing they are looking at right now is changes to event approvals, so anyone who has submitted an event form in the past, especially if it's a smaller event knows how difficult SERC has been at getting responses in a timely fashion as they get a lot of event applications so they are looking at creating forms that, so it was a great discussion on what that might look like, the timeline, and the impact that are checkboxes for low-risk events where the governing body, in our case for clubs and societies,

where we can approve low-risk events and then only high-risk events such as sporting events etc., would go through SERC to make it a quicker event approval in the future. I participated in discussions about that and what might that look like. I sat in on some interviews with Brennan.”

Deanna Merriam: “ First things first, I did take some time off this week and last week because of overtime and preparing for the last emergency council meeting. That being said, emergency council meeting took up the vast majority of my time because we had approximately 26 people to meet with and have these transition days with. We also had about 6 people, outside of the two designated transition dates, who needed to sit down one-on-one and go through things. For VP Finance and Operations, we have had couple of things to do in relation to that. Most notably, as we just talked about, are the interviews and preparations for the Interim. In the meantime, in their vacancy, we have been splitting up the funding requests, so we have been getting a lot of those as students prepare for their year in September.

I have been preparing a lot for the Book Buy and Sell, we are hoping to have it in person this year; the room is booked, and everything seems to be good to go, but we are having a back and forth with some UNB staff over how many sales days v/s how many setups and tear-down days. So, I and my Academic Programming Coordinator, Emma, are going through that pretty consistently as of right now, we are all set to go but there may be small changes on the event page so keep an eye on that. Also, we are always looking for volunteers so if you want to volunteer or know people looking to get involved please send me an email, I would be happy to get you in there.

I met with Renaissance College, and we have had some back and forth with RC’s Representative for faculty Orientation Day. Typically, the UNBSU does a presentation, but it’s looking like a speech right now so Kordell will be taking the lead on that from here on out.

I have been helping Student Services quite heavily with their UNBetween programming. We set up the online portion and we have been doing the virtual sessions together. So, each member of the executive team has one session, and I had mine last/two weeks ago with Matt MacLean and we had around 12 students in attendance. It was fun to talk to first-year students on what they are or are not looking forward to.

I sat on Retail Services Committee with Kordell, and we have been going through some changes to campus which I think will be going through the UNB governing bodies soon and chances are you are going to hear about it here and there.

I have been doing Student tours. A couple of first and second years have reached out and asked if I could take them around campus and show them their buildings and I have been going through their class schedules so room-to-room exactly as they would in a normal week.”

Brennan Marks: “ For SafeRide, we had some good news come in this week. I received the full \$8000 Grant from Ability NB for the SafeRide retrofitting. I hired my SafeRide coordinator, Alice Armstrong, for the year and they will start with us this week to start driver hiring.

For UNBSU Food, we officially launched the Hamper Food Box Program this week. I am really excited to see how this helps out students this year. I also hired our new Food Coordinator, Nicole Collier. Nicole is really passionate about Food Security so I know she would do some great stuff for the food team this year. I did put an update on the Tastebreaker Bundles in there. unfortunately, the partner we were working with doesn't want to continue the program this year. But we are trying to find new ways to work with him to continue offering something similar to the purpose of Tastebreaker Bundles.

For Health & Dental, talked to you folks at the meeting about the Student Assistance Program and we had some cards printed for OKits that keep people opted in to keep those added benefits!

Finalized, some policy changes for ACE or DrinkSmart. We extended coordinator applications so if you or anyone you know want to be the DrinkSmart coordinator, please apply.

Campus Events has been really busy, the Kick-off concert is on September 11th down at the Farmer's Market. There will be some more information coming out about that really soon and tickets will go on sale on September 1st. Also, been talking a lot with Pat from the Cellar about some potential events for this year. And meeting with our sports teams RED Bombers. There is a little update from Molly on the executive report that I will let you folks read."

Niko Coady: "Most of my last week has been design and promotions as we are gearing up for the year. I have put a lot of time into the promotions for Kick-off and the website design for campus events so we are revamping what the brand will look like; we have a new brand book this year. I worked with Molly and Brennan to figure out what the vision is going to be for the promotions, and I worked with the talent we have that is going to be at the Kick-off concert this year to make sure we are on the same page for what that will look like. Like Brennan said, we did the Student Assistance Program cards, so I did the design for those. I also did all the stuff from outside regarding the hamper food box so that it could go live. I have also been chatting with Alexa from Greener Village so we have been talking about what we can do more on campus with them this year and they are the partners for the Food bags, but they are hoping to work with us on some other projects. Also, it was Fredericton Pride this week, so I submitted the Pride Parade, and I took some fun photos for social media for Pride promotions. Brennan and I did some filming for this year's BAE campaign with the Campus Sexual Assault Support Advocates,

Hillary and Maggie, so I have just started editing those and I am hoping the first few will be done before we get into the term. I also have been finalizing the Shinerama cookbook with Evan, the Orientation Vice-Chair. I reviewed the Dear First Year Me campaign posters with River from Student Services so we have been selecting the final quotes that we would like to use for the posters and reaching out to the individuals to get pictures and I think it will be hopefully going out by the end of this week. I am also prepping for BlackShirt training as I will be doing the Communications training and I have edited the BlackShirt videos. I also put up the Book Buy & Sell event page and I have attended the SEM-OAC meeting.”

Ria Sabitry: “ Are there any other questions?”

Jharana Luitel: “ I was wondering about the exec updates from VP Advocacy. I looked at the previous exec report and I noticed that VP Advocacy updates has been missing for the past weeks. So, I was wondering would there be any updates regarding the situation going on there.”

Kordell Walsh: “There had been one exec report that was missing because the VP Advocacy had missed the deadline for submission and then after that, they have all been relating to her absence as a result of ongoing investigation/ appeal. We had an appeal hearing this past weekend. Ria can answer this better than I can, but I believe the decision from the appeal will be available sometime early this week and then we will likely have to council another meeting for the appeals board to present their decision and we will move forward from there.”

Ria Sabitry: “ So, I can add to that. As the Chief Returning Officer, I have been working with Matt Oliver and Abigail Companion, so there are the Appeal officers. We have had a hearing and we

have made a decision, but we want to put it down in a formal letter. We will let Kordell, as well as Téa, know by noontime tomorrow. We will have it ready for the next council meeting where we will be presenting to you.”

Brennan Marks: “ I was going to let Jharana know that some of the tasks, throughout our reports, are typical of the Vice President Advocacy’s portfolio. We split her work amongst us in different ways and as you know, we are also down a VPFO so that work was also split. Like the Pride work that Niko and I had done is typically VPA’s and I am starting some planning for the themed weeks that VPA typically handles, like Sustainability week and Sex week normally fall under her portfolio. We will start planning the Destress Fest soon. So, the most pressing work is still getting done.”

Houda El Hajjaoui: “I have a question about the website for Niko. When are you planning to update it and put in our pictures? Will it be kept until we all can take pics with the same background?”

Niko Coady: “ Great question. I am hoping that for our first council meeting in person, as long as everything goes ahead as plan, to take pictures of everyone then so we will look similar, and we will have everyone ready to take pictures on the same day and then they will be updated on the website.”

Deanna Merriam: “ On the note that Kordell and Ria both had, when will we have the next council meeting. I know this one is on a Sunday, and we have had one on a Wednesday. I want to make sure that as many people can attend as possible. Is there a day, weekend or weekday, that works better for folks? If there is a preference that will help me figure out when it is going

to be or help us in preparation. Because if we are hearing tomorrow, like Ria said, then the sooner the better for everyone. Any thoughts?"

Ria Sabitry: " I feel like on a Sunday would be good but since we have the decision coming out tomorrow because of the coordination of time with the Appeal officers we haven't been able to sit down for a meeting yet and that is the only reason for this delay. But other than that, I think Sunday is a good time as it's the end of the week, but I understand a lot of students are not able to make it. But I am not sure if we are able to let them know the decision ahead of time if they want before the council. We can send them an email to all the members explaining what happened. Even if the next council meeting happens a bit later, so they know what happened. I, as the chairperson, can also send an email to them and letting them know of the decision as well."

Deanna Merriam: " What I might do in that case, Ria, if you are okay with it is leave it in your hands in terms of timing and when you think it works best for the committee. Ria or Kordell, doesn't the Appeals Committee attend the council meeting in which the decision is discussed?"

Kordell Walsh: " Yeah, it would be best if the entire Appeal Board can attend so that they can present their thoughts and reasoning for the conclusion they came to."

Ria Sabitry: " Yeah, we can do that as well. So, what we can do is. I can send out the decision and if anybody has any questions or remarks they would like to make then we can do it over in the next council meeting. And, Deanna, maybe what we can do is because I know I worked with UNB SRC and so I know they send out a poll and they ask for different times and which time would be

best for them. So, I can create a poll as well and send it out to everybody in the same email where we say the decision.”

Deanna Merriam: “ So Ria what I will do is I will add you to our Facebook page for easy access.”

Ria Sabitry: “ Thank you so much. Do we have any more questions or anything to add?”

8. Announcements

Kordell Walsh: “ Not so much of an announcement regarding anything else, but a reminder in case anyone who has voting rights hasn’t yet, could you please make sure to submit your votes? So that before the end of this meeting, we can tally and make sure that either the motion passes or doesn’t. If in the case it doesn’t, we can take some time as a council to discuss what the action council wants to take moving forward is.”

9. Other Business

Ria Sabitry: “ Since we do not have anything to mention, we will skip this section. Since Kordell gave a reminder, I would appreciate it if you could send an email to chair@unbsu.ca so you can let me know your decision (yes or no) and any comments you would like to add. So, I will make a tally and let Kordell know and see whether we are able to send another email with the answer – whether we have the Vice President Finances and Operations appointed to the role or not. Are there any other questions?”

Kordell Walsh: “ A point of clarification, Ria. Would you be able to stop sharing your screen so you can tally before we adjourn the meeting? I don’t want us to adjourn the meeting and then

in case anything does happen, we have to call another council meeting to resolve the current issue we are dealing with.”

Ria Sabitry: “ So Kordell, do you want them to send me an email right now?”

Kordell Walsh: “ Yeah if folks can email you so we can tally the votes before we adjourn the committee meeting and ensure the motion that we put forth earlier carries, that would be appreciated.”

Ria Sabitry: “ I have email opened. I think I already got a couple. So, we are going to give it the next 5 minutes to wait for everybody to send an email.”

Kordell Walsh: “ Also a note, Ria. I think there are only about 9 or so voting councillors. So, if you are comparing the numbers, Ria, the chances are they won’t add up. In case if that is what you are waiting on. There wouldn’t be a full 16 or 17 votes coming in.”

Ria Sabitry: “ So, I just received an email, and the majority of votes is Yes. So, Kordell would you like to say a couple of lines.”

Resolution 009-21 passes.

Kordell Walsh: “ Congratulations, Katelynn and welcome to the team and I will be reaching out to you to provide some transition stuff. I look forward to working with you.”

10. Adjournment

Resolution 010-21

That Council adjourns the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Mover: Kordell Walsh

Seconder: Houda El Hajjaoui

Vote passes unanimously.

Kordell Walsh

Signature:



Email: president@unbsu.ca

Ridhi Sharma

Signature:


Ridhi Sharma (Oct 19, 2021 16:13 ADT)

Email: secretary@unbsu.ca