

AGENDA – Emergency UNBSU Council Meeting



UNB Student Union 2021/22

October 3, 2021 via Zoom and in-person

Regrets: Khanh Nguyen, Maya Kors, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, Jharana Luitel

Absent: Kianna Bear-Heatherington

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, calls the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

1.1 Roll Call

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, performs the roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 022-21

That *Council approves the agenda.*

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Mover: Deanna Merriam

Seconder: Kordell Walsh

The agenda is approved.

3. Chair's Remarks

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, makes the remarks by stating, "This is my first chairing meeting, and I am hoping to do a great job. I apologize for any mistake that I am a little certain to make today. I strive to do better, and I will try to do. Thank you, everyone. I am looking forward to this."

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

UNBSU President, Kordell Walsh, states, " Previous minutes weren't sent out. We will have to motion to table it for the next meeting. Ridhi and I had discussed it. We hadn't shared with Ridhi the schedule because Ridhi is not in the Facebook group. So, there was a miscommunication on when they have to be in."

Resolution 023-21

That *Council* moves to table the previous minutes to next meeting.

Motion to Table the Previous Minutes to Next Meeting.

Mover: Kordell Walsh

Secunder: Seth Eichhorst

Vote passes.

5. Substantiative Business

5.1 Resignation of Vice President Internal

Vice President Internal, Deanna Merriam, states, "I sent out a letter that was shared with the council, and I can repeat it now, or if we want to move past that, I can answer any questions, concerns, comments or thoughts."

Student Senator, Luc Bouvier, comments, " Thank you very much, Deanna, for your wonderful service. I understand entirely why you are doing this. I am, of course, disappointed that we are losing out on such great talent that's been with the Student Union a bit longer than average folk. So, thank you so much and best of luck for the rest of your year."

Vice President Internal, Deanna Merriam, responds, "Thank you so much that's sweet. It was a back-and-forth decision for a while. For those of you who don't know, the by-elections start on Monday, so I waited till the last second to decide. I am being encouraged by the people around me to make this decision. I do believe this is the right one, but one that I make very sadly but thank you."

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, adds, "Thank you. We are sad to see you go."

5.2 Non-Faculty Councillor updates

Accessibility Representative, Mia Scalabrin, states, “ not particularly, other than just getting started on the All Abilities Club I am doing.”

Inclusion Representative, Jillian Carson, says, “I don’t have any updates right now.”

International Representative, Sangeeth Mylatt Veettil, adds, “ No updates.”

5.3 ISAO (Focus group on COVID-19 and racism)

Vice President Communications, Niko Coady, states, “I met with Hillary this week about some ISAO upcoming events. They are looking to host focus groups on COVID-19, racism, and how COVID-19 has impacted the lives of people of colour and international students on campus. She is looking for students who are interested in participating in those conversations and for individuals who are interested in moderating or facilitating those groups. So, if anyone is interested in attending or facilitating the events, then get in touch with me. Then, I can help connect you with Hillary, and I will be helping out with the event as well. I think it’s a great opportunity to start important conversations on campus. Any questions?”

5.4 Class recordings

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, states, “The law dean has been very resistant to professors recording classes, even though most profs expressed privately to the students that they wouldn’t have an issue with it. They feel they are being

pressured by the dean not to record classes and provide them. I feel this is both a
and health issue. If the students feel they need to attend class or because they can't
get a recording after the fact. So, I am just wondering what other faculties are
doing with regards to class recordings and if the Executives know of university-wide
policy on this?

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, questions, "Are they live streaming as
well as in-person lectures or is it solely in-person lectures with no live streaming?"

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, responds, "It's a mix of both. For in-person lectures,
just the audio is being recorded, and zoom lectures are being recorded but it's a bit
of convoluted process to access to the recordings."

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, states, " Do you want us to tell you what
our faculty are doing? Our faculty is different, but for my classes, I have 2 that do
live streaming, which is through Teams, recorded and uploaded it on d2l. 4 classes
are mainly in person, and they don't have any live streaming."

International Representative, Sangeeth Mylatt Veettil, states, " We had a similar
thing. There is one class that isn't recorded so if you can not attend classes, then
that's difficult."

Management Councillor, Meghan Budd, voices, “I speak for the Faculty of Management, basically on the sense that if the class is running through in-person or online. If it's online, through Teams, then it's recorded. If it's in-person, then profs are opting for the online option. It's just a simple divide.”

VP Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds, “ pre-covid it was a policy that the prof gets to decide for their course if they wish to be recorded. I think there is a duty to accommodate for COVID reasons.”

VP Internal, Deanna Merriam, adds on, “So, right now, the COVID policies are up in the air with University. And it's hard to get this passed within the semesters you would need it. In terms of what the faculties are doing, it's a great place to start looking into what they are doing. But something that would probably be a good push for your dean is to try to gather letters of support from people who are relevant to your faculty or are within the faculty. If you talk to students in your classes or students that are facing these issues and write letters and statements from students in the faculty that would be a really good push for your dean and “within your faculty” way to approach this. And, if that still is a really hard push back, then going outside of faculty and getting support from professors outside your faculty who are doing this. For professors who are doing hybrid style learning, connect with them and ask why they think it works, and taking these (out of faculty) statements to your dean. But as of now, I don't know of any COVID policy that acts

on this. But I think maybe looking at letters of supports from profs and students and getting that general opinion of students and profs would be the best way to remedy that.”

Board of Governor, Vishnu Vardhan, states, “ I was just going to talk about my experiences in my classes, but I think Deanna’s comment was much more useful than me, so I don’t have anything to say.”

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, “For Arts classes, Deanna and I are in a class together, and our course is solely in-person, but our prof is very accommodating. I am sure if someone was out, he would accommodate them. And his other classes are hybrid. I have two history classes, and one of them is live streaming, but no one comes to them, and she isn’t recording them.”

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President- Communications

VP Communications, Niko Coady, says, “ Hi! This week, I met with our food coordinator, Nicole, to chat about food insecurity. She is hoping to do a print campaign and so we just talked about what the method might look like and also, just getting some more information on food insecurity in students and Fredericton for

the website. Because we do have a new hamper food box program and we have fresh food bags programs. And I think they are great programs, but we don't necessarily say a lot about food insecurity and a lot of students don't know the depths of it. So, it's important to understand where that's coming from, and I think that will also help in terms of people accessing those programs and not feeling like there is a barrier between that. And I meet with Savannah, who is our Wellness Coordinator, to chat about Sustainability Week and how the promotions and social media will look like for that. And that was very productive, and she was lovely to work with. I met with Hillary to talk about ISAO events and how we can collaborate on social media campaigns this year. And I also finalized our sponsorship package for Katelynn, Brennan and Molly so they will be sending those out hopefully this week."

6.2 VP – Student Life

VP Student Life, Brennan Mark, states, "This last week, I met with my coordinators. So, from food, the breakfast program, which I alluded to earlier in our transition is on our top priority list. Since there is a lack of food on campus during breakfast time. We are starting that with a once-a-week program that will start tomorrow actually in the SUB cafeteria, its free and you can drop by; there will be some juice, fruits, granola bars and Sodexo is providing free coffee. Long term, we are hoping to form a partnership on that program with Tomavo, hopefully, they will join us. For SafeRide, we are hoping to get a date that the van will be ready, mid to late October was the

date we were given. So, Alice and I are working on an updated SafeRide schedule with all 4 vans and deciding what a 4 van SafeRide system would look like as we typically are just dealing with 3. Sustainability week starts tomorrow so that's been taking my time, tying some loose ends there. I won't read the whole schedule. You can check it out on social media platforms. I mentioned last time if anyone wants to volunteer, then reach out to me. It's definitely an opportunity to come to hang out and donate your time."

6.3 Vice President - Finance and Operations

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, "As Niko mentioned we finished the Sponsorship package and myself, Brennan and Molly are going to be dispersing those this week so that we can get sponsorships for the events - Winter Carnival, Black and Red Day and UNB Red Awards. I had a handful of meetings with clubs and societies that weren't able to come to the information session last week and that went really well. The yearly activation forms are all done and will be passed off to Niko this week for the website to be updated so our insurance will be happy with that. I met with Sara Rothman, and she shared a file on COVID-19 and the restrictions and recommendations i.e., Code of Conduct that will be going through clubs and societies on how they are run in COVID hybrid University rules as well as the Government rules which are over toping the University rules so that added a lot of clarification that will be reiterated to the clubs and societies."

6.4 Vice President - Internal

VP Internal, Deanna Merriam, says, "It's been a strange week. I attended the Atlantic Open Educational Resources Committee to discuss strategies for the implementation of OERs (Open Educational Resources). A lot of schools in Atlantic Canada are trying to achieve this one goal together so we have a committee that is basically just dedicated to a unified approach on the issue. I have a Senate nominating committee this week to appoint more students to Senate committees. I have made a doodle poll to send to you all tomorrow morning and that will be my availabilities for your check-in meetings so you folks will receive that soon so please send that asap. I want to get you, folks, in and set up and ready to go as soon as possible. I focused a lot of time on Council Transition so that I can prepare for all of this. Student Disciplinary Committee is a committee that is in desperate need of students so if you have an interest in the Student Code of Conduct and enforcing the Student Code of Conduct, please send me an email, we are genuinely in desperate need of students interested in it. On that same note, the Arts Faculty Council is also in very desperate need of students to sit on their council. I believe it's Monday and Tuesday from 1-2:30 PM perhaps, I can check on that. So, if you are in Arts or have friends in Arts then please do it, they are all great folks. Finally, I have been making an extensive to-do list of every audit end that will need to be picked up as I transition out of my role and I have started to form a transition report for incoming VP Internal."

6.5 6.5 President

President, Kordell Walsh, states, “ So, I had the Respondus review group this week, as I already shared with you, folks, during the transition, services are going out to students and faculty who use Respondus in their classes in winter 2021 and this past summer. So, that’s sort of happening and hopefully, we will be getting feedback soon to influence the policy. I had Investments Committee and Finance and Property Committee with the Board. Both were quite long meetings and it’s still taking a while to wrap my head around everything. I am not a Finance major by any means, so learning some of the terms and understanding their practical use has been a learning curve, especially, in 200 pages packages for the committee meetings. I also met with IT Services to discuss the voting issue that we talked about last week and that has been resolved. They should be able to conduct elections as we have in the past, so I reached out on the behalf of CRO, this afternoon, to set up a service desk ticket with ITS to get the elections started, hopefully, I will hear back from them soon to know for sure ITS is saying good to go. I met with some folks from the city, quickly and this week will have an in-depth meeting, just to talk about students and their involvement in the city and how we can bridge the gap between students and the city. Having students more involved in downtown life an etc. is great. One of their questions was how we can make the city more accessible and inclusive to students and make them want to come downtown and engage with activities. A lot of COVID stuff and the university is still figuring out since it's ever-changing. Meeting in committees as well as reaching out to Kathy Wilson or other folks in her office to understand how this one government change impacts the Student

Union, council, or events. Another thing, I have been working on is welcome guides or transition guides for each of my committees which will outline Committee membership, what the committee is tasked with and some pointers on past activities of committees have been and what are some of the ongoing issues the committees may face over the upcoming year. Some of my passion projects or some of the projects that we have put in our Strategic Plan and then the ways that committee members can bring forward more ideas to the committee. I want to make sure that I give committee members as much information as possible so we can get hit the ground running, especially with the Policy Committee because that's a bigger committee that has more pressing changes, but Advancement Committee is ongoing, and I want to do my best that the committee runs smoothly since the starts. So, it's been a lot of reading for the committees and getting stuff set up for after the transition.

7. Question Period

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, voices, "The vending machines in our law building are broken and the Law faculty says it's not their responsibility, so who should I contact at the university to get those fixed?"

Vice President Internal, Deanna Merriam, replies, "Speak with Sodexo. Also, I can touch base with Becky to see who is responsible for the vending machine and I can send you an email with what she says."

President, Kordell Walsh, adds, " I would also touch base with Facilities Management. I know when I was living in residence, we had an issue with our vending machine, and we had to call them."

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds on, "It is fm@unb.ca"

Vice President Communications, Niko Coady, says, "I will start with the Facilities Management. When something happens with a vending machine in residence, we have to contact Facilities Management, and then if they have to contact Sodexo, they will do it directly. So, I would start with FM, and then they will tell you if you need to contact Sodexo."

Board of Governor, Vishnu Vardhan, " I was also going to say Facilities Management first because like Niko said lots of problems with vending machines on residences."

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, asks, "Anyone else have any questions regarding anything else? Anyone on Zoom?"

8. Announcements

Vice President Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds on, "I want to draw attention to the Green Beer initiative which is happening during Sustainability Week. So, for every local beer purchased at the cellar starting tomorrow, a dollar will go to the Student Sustainability Fund. Go to the cellar!"

Interim Vice President Finance and Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, "reiterating, talk to your friends and let them know about council positions and bylaw elections. Nominations go up tomorrow. Just trying to expand our circle of Student Union and reach out to people that you may think will thrive in those positions."

Vice President, Niko Coady, adds “stuff that’s on the social media, I would appreciate if you could share it on your social media or if there is something on our Instagram story and if you want to share, then send me a message and I can send you the graphic and I can tag you. It helps with expanding our circle. We often are in a bubble of Student Union people that apply for positions or that interact with us, and we want to engage as many people as possible and get as many students involved people. Share it with your friend group and share it in your socials like the Sustainability week schedule went up today, nominations are going to go up in the morning, etc. It's really appreciated on my part!”

Vice President Internal, Deanna Merriam, adds, “I just wanted to make sure that everyone is also aware that the three Vice President positions are paid more than minimum wage: \$15/hour. They are paid, and the other representative positions are Honoria based.”

President, Kordell Walsh, adds, ‘If you know folks who are interested in getting involved in the Union and want paid positions but are too intimidated or shy to run in elections, then there are hire positions like CRO.’

Other Business

Acting Chair, Matthew Gysbers, states, “Since no one else has anything else to say.”

Adjournment

Resolution 024-21

That Council adjourns the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Mover: Brennan Marks

Seconder: Houda El Hajjaoui

The vote passes unanimously.

Kordell Walsh

Signature:



Email: president@unbsu.ca

Ridhi Sharma

Signature:


Ridhi Sharma (Oct 19, 2021 16:08 ADT)

Email: secretary@unbsu.ca