

AGENDA – Emergency UNBSU Council Meeting



UNB Student Union 2021/22
September 26, 2021 via Zoom

Regrets:

Absent: Camryn Smith

1. Call to Order

UNBSU President, Kordell Walsh, calls the meeting in order at 11:38 AM.

1. Roll Call

UNBSU President, Kordell Walsh, performs the roll call.

2. Approval of Agenda

President, Kordell Walsh, states that there are some amendments to make to the agenda, like correcting the UNB Ski and Snowboard Club to UNB Ski and Board Club as well as, including the African Caribbean Society and the Undergraduate Nursing Society.

Resolution 011-21

That Council adopts the agenda for September 26, 2021 with the amendments to correct to UNB Ski and Board Club and adding African Caribbean Society and the Undergraduate Nursing Society.

Motion to Approve Amended Agenda.

Mover: Deanna Merriam

Seconder: Jharana Luitel

Vote passes unanimously.

Amended agenda approved.

3. Chair's Remarks

President, Kordell Walsh, says, "I will be chairing the meeting as we do have the resignation of our Council Chair, which we will go into more detail momentarily, and we did only hire our new Council Chair on Thursday and they asked if they could take a backseat, since it's such a close timeline."

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

President, Kordell Walsh, states, "We have two sets of previous minutes to go through and approve. Did anyone have any concerns over the contents of the minutes? So, we have the August 11th and August 22nd Council Minutes. I don't think if there are any concerns over either of them, I think we can just approve both of them at once with a motion to approve the minutes from August 11th and August 22nd council meetings."

Resolution 012-21

That Council approves the minutes from council meetings on August 11th and August 22nd.

Motion to Approve Previous Minutes

Mover: Jharana Luitel

Secunder: Maya Kors

Vote passes. Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy abstained due to delayed entry.

Previous Minutes approved.

5. Substantive Business

President, Kordell Walsh, voices, "Each faculty meeting, we flip between Faculty Councilor updates and Non-Faculty Councilor updates, and it just so happens that first council meeting happens to be Faculty Councilor updates. We don't expect you folks to have much to update on; however, we do want to provide you with the opportunity to share any updates, whether it's regarding the Faculty or Faculty Society."

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5.1 Faculty Councillor Updates

Nursing Councillor, Ariel Lee, states that she doesn't have any updates currently from the Moncton campus, and she will need to communicate with the President of Nursing Society on the Fredericton campus.

Kinesiology Councillor, Abbie Delaney, also doesn't have any updates for the council as of now.

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, updates the council by stating that during the summer, she started looking at EUS about the accessibility room in Head Hall. But she hasn't been provided with any updates regarding that.

Science Councillor, Khanh Nguyen, states that she doesn't have any updates from the Science Faculty.

Management Councillor, Meghan Budd, doesn't have any updates for the council at the moment.

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, doesn't have any updates from the Law Faculty.

Computer Science Councillor, Spencer MacDonald, states, "there are no updates on my end."

5.2 Appeals Board Report

President, Kordell Walsh, voices that he will be passing the floor of to Ria Sabitry for the Appeals Board Report. He also mentions that our two Appeal Boards Officers are present for the meeting today.

Chairperson, Ria Sabitry, states, "So, I do have the two other Officers, Matthew and Abigail, who are also in the meeting, and after I explain the document, they will be

coming in to answer any questions you have. I believe the Appeal Hearing was held on August 18th. On August 23rd, we sent out this letter of appeal which has our decision, and I will be reading this out to you first. "As a union, I, the Chairperson of the UNBSU and the authorized Appeal Officers, Matthew Oliver and Abigail Companion have unanimously decided to deny Tea's appeal request. We believe that the Vice President Advocacy position carries significant duties, and the candidate must be able to exhibit strong leadership abilities. Time management and the ability to attend all meetings is one of the top priorities that the candidate must have because the executive team is responsible for making decisions about student life and ensuring that plans are carried out properly, so not providing enough work to the team can be detrimental to the UNBSU's future. Furthermore, a competent executive committee will not accept failure/delay in providing notices of absence. This might undermine the UNBSU's overall reputation as well as the job that needed to be done during the meeting. Also, Tea had earlier stated that she was unaware of who she should contact to report her absences. According to the bylaws, "The Vice President Advocacy should report to the President." therefore keeping the president updated is an important responsibility of the executive committee. We do realize that the suspension was not done with the appropriate steps, but the executive committee thought that it would be the best option for them at that moment as they were looking for somebody much more dedicated and devoted to the role. It appears that the UNBSU committee members did their best to give Tea a fair inquiry." And, then basically, I included the Powers of Decision and things included in the Bylaws. We kept it short and brief as we didn't want to go into much detail. But that

is what we thought would be the best decision for the executive committee. So, we are going to be open to any questions you may have now. Seth, do you have a question?

Law Councillor, Seth Eichhorst, questions, "Is this the VP Advocacy from the last year who based on reading this was late and was removed from their position, and then, they tried to appeal it. Is that basically what happened?"

Chairperson, Ria Sabitry, responds, "I do believe she was running for the same role last year correct me if I am wrong, Kordell, but yes, basically there were a lot of inconsistencies attending the meetings and keeping herself with the commitments that the role advocates. Since she was unable and complaints were going around, we did this based on this year's performance and of course, last year's performance did have an impact, but it was on how she started in her role in this academic year."

Student Senator, Luv Bouvier, asks, "When was the former VP Advocacy removed from their role, and what was the process for that?"

Chairperson, Ria Sabitry, responds, "I am new to this role, but from, what I understand, the Appeal Board, we were going to decide on what is going to happen with the role now and since, we sent out the letter that we believe that she should be removed from the role. So, I believe the UNBSU took the appropriate steps to remove her from her role and I believe she is no longer appointed to the role. Kordell, would you mind hopping in?"

President, Kordell Walsh, adds, "If appropriate, I can provide a timeline. We placed Tea on suspension starting July 15th and then upon the report from the Appeals Board, we were waiting for council approval; however, in the interim, Tea has on her own volition,

stepped away from the role and chosen to not press it further. Once, the report came out is when Tea officially left the Union.”

Accessibility Representative, Mia Scalabrin, inquires, “Is there going to be an election coming up for advocacy?”

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, “There is a By-election and the call for nominations goes out next week, I believe on Monday 4th. There will be a two-week nomination period and a two-week campaigning period and then a voting period as per our By-laws. And, hopefully, the position will be filled very shortly.”

Chairperson, Ria Sabitry, asks, “Abigail and Matt, would you like to add anything?”

Appeal Board Officer, Matthew Oliver, responds, “I think you have said all that needs to be said.”

Appeal Board Officer, Abigail Companion, agrees.

President, Kordell Walsh, says, “If there are no further questions, then I think the proper procedural route forward would be a motion to approve the findings and recommendations of Appeal Board as presented. Is there anyone willing to motion?”

Resolution 013-21

That Council approves the findings and recommendations presented by the Appeal Board.

Motion to Approve Appeals Board Report

Mover: Brennan Marks

Seconder: Jilian Carson

The vote passes unanimously. Deanna Merriam and Brennan Marks abstain due to their involvement in the process.

5.3 Resignation of Council Chair/Chief Returning Officer

President, Kordell Walsh, states, “Ria has submitted a letter of resignation. I will let you folks read it but in essence, Ria has accepted a Co-op position and has chosen to register for courses at UNBSJ. As she won’t be a UNB Fredericton student. She wouldn’t be a member of the union and therefore won’t be able to hold this role. Ria did an excellent job with the time she was with the union. But it’s just the case of being part of UNBSJ. Do folks have any questions or concerns that they would like to raise on this point? I will also note that we put a posting for CRO which went out on Friday. If there are no questions or comments, then I don’t think we need to motion on that.”

5.4 Ratification of Council Chair

President, Kordell Walsh, conveys, “We solicited more applications for the position of Council Chair as the Selections Committee, and we conducted an interview with the individual we have chosen to recommend to the council, Matt Gysbers. Matt is a Law student. Matt interviewed quite well for the position, and he was offered the position on Thursday, right before the Council Transition. He asked if he could avoid chairing this council meeting so that he could get the feel for how things go and see how the Union

operates, which I think is very fair. We all unanimously felt that Matt was a great candidate and would do great things in the role of the Union. And, Matt, if you want to add anything, I can hand the floor to you. Matt isn't able to speak today due to technical difficulties. Does anyone have any questions or concerns? Could we get someone to motion to approve the recommendation of the UNBSU Selection Committee to appoint Matt Gysbers to the position of Council Chair for the 2021-2022 academic year?"

Resolution 014-21

That Council appoints Matt Gysbers as Council Chair.

Mover: Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald

Secunder: Spencer MacDonald

The vote passes unanimously. Deanna Merriam, Maya Kors, and Abbie Delaney abstain due to their involvement in the Selection Committee.

5.5 Ratification of Clubs and Societies

Interim Vice-President Finance & Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, "We have 6 Clubs and Societies looking to ratify. Out of the 6, only 2 are considered new, the other 4 have already been previously ratified but have been inactive for few years, so they are seeking re-ratification. My apologies, in the future, if there are any ratifications, I will send you their constitutions so that you have time to read them."

i. UNB Ski and Board Club

Interim Vice-President Finance & Operations, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, "UNB Ski and Board Club have a membership fee and take students to Crabbe on a designated day. It's basically, the transportation back and forth. If anyone has any questions, I can answer them."

Asks, "I know they ran into issues with SERC a couple of years ago, so have they been resolved."

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, "They will be considered a ratified Clubs and Societies. It is up to them if they choose to run this year. We are just making it that they will be able to receive funding if they go forward with running."

VP Student Life, Brennan Marks, adds, "To answer your question, there were a lot of issues, with the SERC with the Ski and Board Club. The biggest issue was insurance on the buses. So, me and Ellen Petrie, the other Co-Chair, will be looking at some new options that meet the requirements of UNB and SU, since SU is also responsible for the insurance. We are hoping for a better year without issues with SERC."

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, questions, "So, is this a club that hosts a single event, or it has multiple meetings throughout the year, beyond that single event?"

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, responds, "It is one annual meeting I believe, but it's a club that students can join and pay a fee and that fee gets them weekly transportation to and from Crabbe Mountain."

Resolution 015-21

That Council ratifies UNB Ski and Board Club.

Motion to Ratify UNB Ski and Board Club

Mover: Deanna Merriam

Seconder: Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy

The vote passes unanimously. Brennan Marks abstains due to their involvement with the Club.

ii. UNB Cultural Club

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, informs, "Their goal is to promote cultural inclusivity and diversity in NB, to represent its members to the administration and governing bodies of UNB and any other organization, to promote unity and the well-being of UNB student body, to promote and maintain communication between different cultural groups at UNB, to serve and further the intellectual, educational, cultural, social, and interdisciplinary activities of UNB students, and to promote cultural exchanges among different cultural groups at UNB. There is International Students Cultural Club, but these two are different because International Students Cultural Club is for all students but highlights international students, while, this cultural club highlights all cultures, and it's not just for international students. I can answer any questions regarding it."

Resolution 016-21

That Council ratifies UNB Cultural Club.

Motion to Ratify UNB Cultural Club

Mover: Brennan Marks

Seconder: Kianna Bear-Heatherington

The vote passes unanimously.

iii. Undergraduate Psychology Society (UPS)

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, “ They were a ratified society, but they were inactive in the past, and they are looking to regain their ratification. So, their goals are to promote a positive environment for UNB, promote events put on by the society, provide members of the society with the opportunity of social development, and provide opportunities for networking and creating connections. Does anyone has any questions?”

Resolution 017-21

That Council ratifies Undergraduate Psychology Society (UPS).

Motion to Ratify Undergraduate Psychology Society (UPS)

Mover: Jharana Luitel

Seconder: Houda El Hajjaoui

The vote passes unanimously.

iv. UNB All Abilities Club

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, “Their objectives are to promote disability awareness for students at UNB, promote an inclusive environment for students with varying abilities, provide a basic ALS programming to students at UNB, and promote members of the club with an opportunity to share their passion for accessibility inclusion. If we have any questions, I can answer them.”

Resolution 018-21

That Council ratifies UNB All Abilities Club.

Motion to Ratify UNB All Abilities Club

Mover: Maya Kors

Seconder: Jharana Luitel

The vote passes unanimously. Mia Scalabrin abstains due to their involvement with the Club.

v. African Caribbean Society

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states that the African Caribbean Society was also a ratified society, but they have been inactive since 2018, so they are looking to reinstate it. Their objectives are to promote African and Caribbean culture; host a variety of cultural, social and educational events throughout the year; create a safe and positive space where students can enhance their cultural awareness; work with other organizations/ clubs on providing opportunities for various African culture and history.”

Resolution 019-21

That Council ratifies African Caribbean Society.

Motion to Ratify African Caribbean Society

Mover: Houda El Hajjaoui

Seconder: Kianna Bear-Heatherington

Vote passes unanimously.

vi. UNB Nursing Undergraduate Society

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states that it's a society that has been inactive for a couple of years, so they are looking to become reactive in seeking ratification. Their objectives are to provide members of the society with an opportunity for social and professional development during their academic journey, to prepare future nursing leaders for active roles in their community, provide a medium through which nursing students can voice their opinions and concerns on issues in relation to nursing and healthcare within populations in both local and global context, provide a medium for nursing students to form community partnerships with members of the local community, participate and encourage activities that promote the interest of nursing students, the society and the holistic student health within the UNB community, coordinate and participate in raising activities to provide a donation to charitable organizations, and correlate social event/ activities primarily for nursing students."

Resolution 020-21

That Council ratifies UNB Nursing Undergraduate Society.

Motion to Ratify UNB Nursing Undergraduate Society

Mover: Jharana Luitel

Seconder: Jilian Carson

The vote passes unanimously. Ariel Lee abstains due to their involvement in the club.

6. Reports to Council

6.1 Vice President - Communications

VP Communications, Niko Coady, says, "Hi everyone! It is nice to see everyone's face. I just want to note before I start mine that I was out of the office from September 14th to 17th because of personal issues. So, mine may seem short. For the last few weeks, I have been working on getting the videos and photos. We hired Edward to do videography at the Kick-Off Concert, so I have been working with Edward to collect all the video footage and I was there doing photos. So, I have been doing editing for those for promotions, and the video looks great. It is hopefully going to go out in the next week or so. I attended the Clubs and Societies session with Katelynn to talk about some social media stuff with all our clubs. I met with Molly and Brennan, and we met with the Student Experience Team (SET) to do a debrief of the Kick-Off concert. I also put out the hiring postings for SET, Graphic Designer, and CRO. So, Graphic Designer went up last week, and SET and CRO went up on Friday. I worked on the sponsorship package that Katelynn and Brennan are going to send out for events so that is now finished and

ready to go out. I worked on some regular website updates; updating the homepage, and the Clubs and Societies page to make sure all the forms are there and ready to go. The Student Sustainability Funds forms are now finalized, and they are live on the site and can be filled out. I met with Hillary Nguyen from the International Student Advisors Office about the Talk of the Hill Podcast, which I will be co-hosting. I attended the drag show and took some photos. I am waiting on final approval from some of the performers so that we can hopefully post those photos. It was an awesome event so a big shout out to 203 and Brennan for hosting that. Those are the big updates from me, and I will pass it off to Brennan.”

6.2 Vice President - Student Life

VP Student Life, Brennan Mark, says, “Hey everyone! It’s been busy few weeks. But it has been a good busy. So, I am going to go through my “units”.

Campus Events is the first big one. We have the Kick-Off event that went well. We had hoped for 400 tickets, and that was very optimistic, and we sold 550 which was amazing. We are very pleased with that venue, so we are keeping that in mind for the future. If you have any feedback on that event, we are all ears, so please send me an email and I would love to hear your thoughts. SET has been hired and we have been orienting them. Since we hired them right before the Kick-Off concert, they didn’t get a proper welcome into the team and here is what you do. So, now we are back-tracking to do that. Molly is taking supervision of them. Right now, we are planning some events for

the mid-semester. We had some changes to homecoming, so we are reworking that again to find the best way to structure events.

Next is SafeRide. So, SafeRide is up and fully running. We have finally got enough drivers to consider it fully staffed. Huge shout out to Alice, my SafeRide Coordinator. They are doing an amazing job; took SafeRide and ran with it. I hope you spotted the new vans looking lovely and nice, really thrilled with them. And I heard from Moncton last week that the SafeRide van should be done in the next couple of weeks with retrofitting, so we have accessible SafeRide service starting soon. But we are still looking for SafeRide drivers so if you are looking for some extra cash, then consider applying.

My next unit is UNBSU Food. Nicole Collier is my Food Coordinator, which I mentioned last time. We have lots of great food programs coming up, so we are reworking the hamper food box program, after the feedback we got from our first session. Food bags are up and running. Our biggest project right now is getting the Breakfast Program up and running. There is no breakfast on campus right now for commuter students. So, we are going to try to meet that need through some food programming and hopefully through some continued conversations with Sodexo.

SLIC is up and running fully, and my two coordinators are hired so they are there for you.

1785 – Me and Niko have been working on it, and not many updates there. Hopefully, we will have a collection out for this semester.

Bike Co-op. I mentioned this in my summer update. There have been some updates on that but now we are at the point where we need to buy a shed, so my priority is there right now with the Bike Co-op.”

6.3 Vice President - Finance and Operations

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, states, “So, I will start with sponsorships. As Niko said, the sponsorship package is done, so we will be sending that out on Monday. I have a list together of past sponsorship deals as well as new people that we are hoping to get sponsorship from. I was seeking sponsorships for Winter Carnival, Red and Black, and Red Awards. We are also going to be sending a separate package for few sponsorships for the breakfast program hopefully and then we will be reaching out for sponsorships for the Bike Co-op.

Clubs and Societies. I had a Clubs and Societies meeting with all the executive members of Clubs and Societies that could attend and that went very well. I gave them all the information they needed; created a PowerPoint that is like their survival guide for right now. The Clubs and Societies that weren't able to attend have booked private meetings with me so I can reiterate all that information. Yesterday, was the last day to submit their yearly activation form, with exception of few people that messaged me, so by tomorrow, I will have a concrete list of all the clubs and societies which I will be sending to Niko so that our website is updated with our current information. This last week with COVID, the rules have been back and forth so just making sure that clubs

and societies understand the rules that UNB is putting forward for how they should be run for this year.”

6.4 Vice President - Internal

VP Internal, Deanna Merriam, says, “Hi everyone! It's really nice to see you, despite the last-minute circumstances and changes. It's been super busy for everyone, so I am going to update you on major focuses. Number one would be Kordell and I have, over the last few weeks and all summer, been attending Student Standings and Promotions, a Senate committee that is dedicated to mostly academic offences.

The next big thing would be the Book Buy and Sell that just happened. It was from September 13th to 17th. My academic programming coordinator, Emma, and I arranged for a team of approximately 13 volunteers who were so amazing and super helpful. I am grateful for them. We ran the sale from 9-5 each day and took in over 400 textbooks, and in the end, I think we sold over \$2000 worth of books, which is great because it's saving students' money and it's going into the pockets of students, so it is a great cycle. I would prefer the event to run a bit differently in the future. So, Emma and I will be meeting over the next few weeks to plan for that in advance. Also, just a side note, Kordell and Ridhi, I just want to say a huge thank you to you both. I genuinely don't think I could have done the event or at least have had as nearly successful without you both, you dedicated every day or if not every other day to this event and I just appreciate it a lot so thank you both.

As the Senators know we had a Senators meeting and as you all know the council transition has been on my plate. It has been a bit of a mess due to all the recent updates from New Brunswick Public Health. I know a few councillors who are not in NB. So, just for some insight, NB went back to a semi-lockdown on Friday I believe it was. The way we were planning to have the transition changed with those orders. So, TBD. So, general prep. for council transition like room bookings, Councillor handbooks, figuring out who is in Fredericton and who is not, how to do a semi-online transition, and arranging all your committees, side note, if you have not selected your committees yet, I did assign you to where we had gaps, so you will see that when we do eventually go over the transition.”

6.5 President

President, Kordell Walsh, states, “My last few weeks have been pretty busy. It has really been a lot of committee meetings. As Deanna mentioned, we have done a lot of Student Standings and Promotions. UNB has a transportation task force, so I have attended a couple of meetings for that. We are finalizing a report to the University of short-term and long-term goals. Essentially, the framework of the committee has been taking UNB’s transportation and those types of policies and proposals that have come forward over the past 10 years or so. And establishing what the realistic goals from those should be moving forward. Another huge thing for committees has been COVID Committees, whether it is the Health Emergencies By-Campus Steering Committee or the Fredericton Self-Isolation Steering Committee, or the By-Campus Isolation Steering Committee. COVID based committees have been taking up a lot of time because of roll-out to the vaccination policy, the new regulations that came into effect two midnights

ago, things as such have taken up a lot of time and being involved in those discussions have been insightful in helping us stay in the curve or even ahead of the curve in terms of knowing what the University is going to come up with and plan. UNB is also embarking on a new program, series of events. It's still unclear what exactly they are hoping with it but its called Diversity Dialogues where they are trying to focus on promoting EDI in the University community, showcasing what can be done but showcasing what UNB already does. So, there has been a lot of meetings on what the University is hoping to get out of this and maybe how we as the Union can collaborate on the events and I have touched base with some of our coordinators about that and I will be touching base with some of our councillors. But, it's so up in the air that I don't want to come forth with requests or questions because I am not sure what they are hoping for. But, once I have knowledge of that, I will be consulting with you folks. CASA and NBSA. CASA has been going well, we just had e-plenary the other day, which went quite well, it was quick and easy. Just updates on financial statements and what committees have been working on. My commitments with CASA are policy-focused, so I am with the Federal Policy Committee and Governance and Internal Review Committee. It's just looking over the policies that are about to expire and making sure they work properly. I had a board meeting with NBSA on Friday. We passed a couple of policies. Committees have been touch and go. It's been hard to plan around everyone's schedule because of orientation week and classes starting up so we are getting into a regular swing of things. I have participated with Katelynn in hiring for some of the positions. ALPS – I am trying to figure out this amalgamation and how to best represent Adult Learners and Part-Time Students, so I had a meeting with some folks, and they

put me in contact with more folks, so I have been branching out and trying to contact as many people as possible. The last thing continuing to pick away at By-laws and policies, that way we have something to discuss and start with Policy committee.”

Question Period

Nuci Putawasuwin, Kianna Bear-Heatherington, questions, “I was just wondering for the Truth and Reconciliation event happening on Thursday, with everything that’s happening with COVID, I was just wondering how that was going to go. Are we going to live stream it now or are we having people coming in?”

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, “That’s a really great question, Kianna. I wish I had an answer for you, but I don’t. When the announcement broke on Friday, I was in NBSA board meeting and once I got out, I had a call with Kathy Wilson’s office and their take was the university found out when the rest of us found out that these were the restrictions so they don’t know, and they don’t know how this will impact things like the Clubs and Societies which is why we are in this situation. My best guess would be they would live-stream it, but I can’t say this with any degree of certainty.”

Nuci Putawasuwin, Kianna Bear-Heatherington, adds, “I will be more than willing to speak, if that’s still gonna go through, obviously, it will be if its live-stream. And I will contact you for that afterwards.”

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, “ Thank you. That’s really great to hear. We will keep in touch. Any other questions?”

VP Internal, Deanna Merriam, responds, "I have a question for the council as a whole I suppose. So, while we try and reschedule the transition, I have two options: I could reschedule it in the evening during the week or can reschedule it for Sunday, 3rd, a couple of hours before the council meeting. I know Sunday evening is not a super exciting time, but if it is a matter preventing you from coming in twice. Any opinions or thoughts? I would be happy to work around."

Accessibility Representative, Mia Scalabrin, states, "Will the transition also have to be online as well?"

VP Internal, Deanna Merriam, responds, "Yeah, that's what we are waiting to hear back on. I much rather it is in person. Mia, you were in council last year, so the transition was lengthy to sit in a zoom call for several hours. We are going to reach out to the administration this week again. It is the weekend, so I am not shocked that there have not been any updates. But hopefully, it will be in person. My thing is I don't see how the council transition is any different from classroom organization. Have masks on all the time sitting in a classroom, it's Tilley 303. One speaker at the front presenting, while, everyone else is attending. I can't see it being a major issue if we have it in person. My ultimate goal is to have a council in person, but that is up for debate. But that's what I am pushing for Mia, as opposed to online."

President, Kordell Walsh, asks, "Any questions? I will hop in with a question for the council and the exec too. I kinda suspect I know the answer but essentially IT services is transferring, as you know, myUNB to SharePoint and that has many growing pains with it. And one of them being the impact it will have on elections. So, IT services can no longer use the election platform that they had been using under myUNB eservices

realm. So, they reached out to the new company, and they reached out to me because the way we conduct elections is only members of faculty can vote for the Faculty Rep. We are the only body, apparently, in all of UNB that does that. SRC, according to UNB, does not have that faculty restriction, nor does UNB as a whole in doing their internal-based elections. So they have expressed a desire for us to change our By-Laws to make it open so it's easier for them, rather than trying to make it so that you restrict access. But as a general thought – what do folks think? Are folks open to this idea or hardline against it?”

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, states, “I will begin my statement by saying that I put myself in that camp being hardline against such a change. Primarily, because if you are not a science student, how do you have a say in the person who represents Science? If you are not in BC, you cannot vote in BC’s provincial legislature, even though you are both part of Canada. The Engineering Rep doesn’t represent me. To be honest, the Women Rep doesn’t represent me so that’s a vote I generally abstain from or many of the other Reps that don’t affect me, I shouldn’t be allowed to vote in. Because what am I doing, besides sabotaging the vote. If we need to change it so its multiple different elections or some weird way that’s fine but you can’t vote for someone who isn’t your Rep, as all your doing is sabotaging the vote and that makes room for rivalry which does exist within this university, even if we don’t see it much.”

VP Student Life, Brennan Marks, states, “ I know we talked about this a little bit. But, I got to speak for my little RC Faculty. We have voting numbers that would outnumber the actual members of one of our faculties. As an RC student, I would be frustrated

because if we are running our election, and tons of students voted for someone and people vote for lots of different reasons, and if the whole faculty chose one person and then we look, and the person won because of everyone outside voted. I would have a problem with that.”

President, Kordell Walsh, adds, “Thank you. And, I will speak to that as well as an RC student. That was one of my initial thoughts. It would be easy for engineering as one of our largest, if not largest, faculties to vote No on RC and have RC never be able to have a Representative. But in most cases, people would vote yes, and that’s sort of the university’s perspective.”

VP Internal Life, Deanna Merriam, says, “I am on the same side. I don’t think it makes sense to have non-faculty members voting on who the faculty representative is. But I am worried that if it does come down to it, the alternative is like 6 different faculty election options like we already have an incredibly, concerning low turnout and I will be honest in saying that students won’t make the effort to vote in 6 separate elections for whichever ones that are relevant to them. If they can do it for one election to sort out whose a member of the faculty, can they do that for smaller versions of that? I guess what’s the alternative here. If we have opened to everyone, or what?”

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, “The initial conversation that I had with UNB was essentially open to everyone or we have to find out a way to host our own elections. However, The company that, this sort of muddies things. The company that they are working with reached out to me directly and expressed that the company is capable of doing something like that. The discussions have brick-walled with the University right now. And it’s not clear out to me why if the company is saying they can do it, then UNB

is against it unless it's a cost thing. So I am wondering if the University is hoping that we would take on our own election to reduce cost or what that might look like. But the initial proposal was like there wasn't a second option to go from there. Gaia?"

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, states, "Thank you. I didn't know if I was allowed to speak twice. If I may add a note. I would like to mention that provincially, I have been a candidate in elections, like on the provincial level, and election integrity is extremely important. There are all these debates where proportional representation how Canada should be holding its elections because we believe we lack our elections lack integrity and the ability of representation. I would say if University says either change your formula or take on the elections yourselves, then I would say we might as well take on the elections ourselves. I would rather we host our elections and have our independent electoral organization within the Student Union, rather than having to change our system. If that makes sense?"

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, "Yeah, thank you. Houda?"

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, inquires, "What did you mean that UNB said to either change your election policy or have your own? So, what are your suggestions? Would it be like other societies through forms or work with the company on our own?"

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, "Personally, I don't have much of a suggestion right now. There are some other implications of hosting our own elections in terms of data sharing, having access to that information to be able to verify Student IDs associated with names, so there are all sorts of implications that come with that, that make it hard to know what our best route is. This would be something I would task likely the Policy

Committee to sort of flush out so that we have an election-based policy outside of the By-Laws outlining which software we are going to use each time and things like that. I had the sense the conversation would go this way, but I wanted to confirm with the council before further negotiations with the University. There was that chance that the council said we think it's good for everyone to have that vote, and we are ok with changing it without any push back to the University. Maya, would you like to speak?"

Inclusion Representative, Maya Kors, voices, "I may be repeating what others said, but I am on the side of keeping especially faculty ones separate. Also, as an RC student, it would be hard if the votes were skewed based on people who outside of the faculty voting for different representatives. I also wanted to put out there that I am on board with trying to hold our own elections. If we do, we might have the opportunity to innovate our elections, as well because we have a little bit more creative freedom over it to be able to get better voter turnout. For example, holding an advanced poll where people could vote in person at the SUB, close that off and take those people out of online voting or watching out for those people, and then holding an online vote. It might encourage the people who are walking by to vote as well. I wanted to put out that if we do choose that route, then we also have a chance to innovate it."

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, "Thank you. Any other questions? Thank you, folks, for the feedback you provided. I will go back to IT Services and see where we can go from there. I think especially right now when we do have an election coming up, it would be ideal if we didn't have to find our own software in the short term. But, I'm just trying to see how to make things work. I am glad to hear there is a firm stance. Are there any other questions?"

2SLGBTQIA+ Representative, Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy, states, "At some point, we need to review how students within multiple faculties are allowed to vote. If I recall, I am a Science and CS student and I can only choose one of those two to vote for which, to be honest, does not make sense because they are representing me in some fashion anyway. This is saying, if we make electoral laws, then it would have to be on the docket for someone to review. No matter what, one of my representatives would not be someone I elected."

President, Kordell Walsh, responds, "That's a great point to raise and definitely something we can be looking into. Any other questions? Hearing none. I can move to announcements. Brennan?"

8. Announcements

VP Student Life, Brennan Marks, says, "Hi! Just a quick one. I did not mention this in my update because it is in the VPA portfolio. But I am planning Sustainability week, and I am actively looking for volunteers to help with some of the small events on the go. If you have interest in that, you can shoot me an email and I can find you an event that you want to help out with. There is a couple of workshops, Lunch and Learn, Trivia Night at Cellar, etc. Let me know if you are interested."

Engineering Councillor, Houda El Hajjaoui, responds, "I am interested. But I also have a question. Would the UNBSU be interested in contacting the UNB Sustainability Office because they are having a Sustainability month in October?"

VP Student Life, Brennan Marks, replies, "I have been working quite heavily with Matt. So, we are doing the first week of their month, and then they are continuing the month to end. So, you would see us both cross-promoting each other. Yes, the Office has been very involved, and it's been a lovely experience to work with them."

Interim VPFO, Katelynn Pickel-MacDonald, says, "Two things. One, I forgot to mention that the Student Sustainability Fund is up and running so that might update as well. Also, I recommend, in the next little bit, looking up the positions that will be up for re-elections and talking to your friends about it and promoting them because it's important to have a full council and it's a good way for students to get involved. For example, the Women Rep position is going to be up for this year, and I was the Women Rep last year. So, I have been talking to people trying to see if anybody would be interested in the position because we need to get those seats filled. Deanna put in the group chat the positions."

President, Kordell Walsh, states, "Are there any other announcements? Seeing as there none, moving on to other business. Deanna? "

9. Other Business

VP Internal, Deanna Merriam, states, "This doesn't need to be done right now. But, typically during the transition, it is outlined that your honoraria forms are outlined, and one part of it is meeting with the VP Internal, once a semester, preferably, you do it as soon as possible, so I am going to put out a Google Form or doodle poll with timeslots available, please pick one as soon as you can so that we can get you, folks, on the right

track for the year. I know this has been a messy start to the council. But, I want to make sure your plans can be achieved in the short time we have. Just a heads up, I will be sending something out, it's part of your honoraria. Honoraria equals your pay. So be sure to fill it out and meet with me."

President, Kordell Walsh, states, "I haven't been noting the chat. But, Gaia added, this is an unrelated topic, that we should look at attempting to become a Fair-Trade Campus, which we can discuss in Advancement Committee or something along those lines. Is there any other business? If not, then we can move to adjourn the meeting."

10. Adjournment

Resolution 021-21

That Council adjourns the meeting at 12:55 PM.

Mover: Gaia Geoffery Noseworthy

Seconder: Deanna Merriam

The vote passes unanimously.

Kordell Walsh

Ridhi Sharma

Signature:



Email: president@unbsu.ca

Signature:



Ridhi Sharma (Oct 19, 2021 16:15 ADT)

Email: secretary@unbsu.ca